

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

All area newspapers, radio stations and television stations were informed of this meeting in compliance with the guidelines set forth in the *Freedom of Information Act*:

**Chairman Tommy Dunn, Presiding
MINUTES**

Special Recognition Section – March 17, 2015 - 6:02 p.m.

Kimberly A. Poulin, Clerk to Council

PRESENT

Francis M. Crowder, Sr. - District One
J. Michelle Cole – District Three
Tom Allen – District Four
Vice Chairman Ken Waters - District Six
M. Cindy Wilson - District Seven

Rusty Burns – County Administrator
Kimberly Poulin - Clerk to Council

- Gracie S. Floyd – District Two - Absent
- This section of the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

**Chairman Tommy Dunn, Presiding
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting - March 17, 2015 - 6:31 p.m.

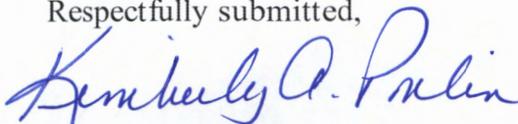
PRESENT

Francis M. Crowder, Sr. – District One
Gracie S. Floyd – District Two
J. Mitchell Cole – District Three
Tom Allen – District Four
Vice Chairman Ken Waters - District Six
M. Cindy Wilson - District Seven

Rusty Burns - County Administrator
Leon Harmon - County Attorney
Kim Poulin – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval. The regular business meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly A. Poulin
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL PRESENTATION MEETING
MARCH 17, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
KEN WATERS, VICE CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS M. CROWDER
GRACIE FLOYD
J. MICHAEL COLE
TOM ALLEN
M. CINDY WILSON

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
KIM POULIN
LEON HARMON

1 TOMMY DUNN: At this time I'd like to
2 call to order the Anderson County Council meeting as
3 part of our presentations meeting of March 17. At
4 this time we'll go to 2(a) resolutions, R2015-011.
5 Mr. Ken Waters. Vice Chairman Waters.
6 KEN WATERS: A Resolution to honor Abbey
7 Nicole Sheppard for her selection as 2015 Teen Miss
8 Anderson County and applaud her academic successes as
9 well as her contributions to our community through
10 volunteerism; and all other matters related thereto.
11 **WHEREAS**, Abbey Sheppard, the daughter of
12 Keith and Donna Sheppard and Brian and Shannon New,
13 treasures being part of a blended family with 5
14 brothers and sisters; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Abbey Sheppard will graduate in the
16 top 30% of her class with Honors and AP credits from
17 Palmetto High School in Williamston this May. Abbey
18 Sheppard participates in the Teacher Cadet Program and
19 is the Secretary of the Spanish National Honor
20 Society. She believes being fluent in another
21 language is an avenue that broadens individuality;
22 and,
23 **WHEREAS**, Abbey Sheppard has completed
24 marketing, sports management and entrepreneurship
25 courses and currently enrolled in BUS101 through
26 Anderson District 1 Career & Technology Center and
27 Tri-County Technical college. Additionally, she is a
28 past participant in the Business Week Program
29 sponsored by Presbyterian College; a program, which
30 prepares students for their college experience and
31 developing business skills; and,
32 **WHEREAS**, Abbey Sheppard works with the YMCA's
33 Childwatch and Youth Wellness Program and volunteers
34 at YMCA sponsored events. She is also a student
35 volunteer at AnMed, where she enjoys interaction with
36 the patients and provides assistance to staff; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Abbey Sheppard desires to obtain a
38 business management degree with a minor in hospitality
39 and tourism from the College of Charleston to equip
40 herself with the knowledge and talents to fulfill her
41 aspiration of owning and managing a hotel; and,
42 **WHEREAS**, in her spare time, Abbey Sheppard
43 enjoys hobbies including DIY projects, repurposing
44 antiques, and making other crafts; and,
45 **WHEREAS**, Abbey Sheppard is a self-motivated,
46 determined individual who has prioritized her life's
47 path immersed in her studies, community involvement,
48 and her relationship with God and family; and,
49 **WHEREAS**, the Anderson County Council and its
50 residents desire to commend and honor the outstanding

1 youth of the Anderson County community; and,
2 **WHEREAS**, Anderson County Council is pleased
3 to acknowledge and congratulate Abbey Sheppard for her
4 personal achievements and for being chosen Miss Teen
5 Anderson County 2015; and,

6 **NOW, THEREFORE**, it is hereby resolved by the
7 Anderson County Council that:

8 The Anderson County Council recognizes that
9 the key to success in a community is its people --
10 especially those who demonstrate qualities of
11 individual excellence, servant leadership, and
12 unselfish devotion to their fellow man.

13 Miss Sheppard, Anderson County Council is
14 proud of your tremendous accomplishments, especially
15 being crowned as Miss Teen Anderson County for 2015.
16 We wish to extend you much success as you represent
17 yourself, your family, and the Anderson community
18 while competing for the crown and title of 2015 Miss
19 Teen South Carolina.

20 This resolution shall take effect and be in
21 force immediately upon enactment; **RESOLVED** in meeting
22 duly assembled this 17th day of March, 2015.

23 Mr. Chairman, I bring that in the form of a
24 motion.

25 TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion. Second Ms.
26 Wilson. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor
27 of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show
28 the motion carries unanimously. Mr. Waters.

29 KEN WATERS: Yes, sir, I'd like for the
30 Council to join me and if you'd come down front we
31 have a plaque we'd like to present to you.

32 **(PRESENTATION OF AWARD)**

33 TOMMY DUNN: I know, and I hate to tell
34 you this. I just got here and I really didn't pay no
35 attention you wasn't there, Mr. Crowder, I hate to say
36 that, but I didn't or I would have waited.

37 Hearing -- there's no other business in this
38 part, we'll disperse and we'll meet back here at 6:30
39 for our regular council meeting.

40
41

(SPECIAL PRESENTATION MEETING ADJOURNED 6:08 P.M.)

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

March 17, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
KEN WATERS, VICE CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS M. CROWDER
GRACIE FLOYD
J. MICHAEL COLE
TOM ALLEN
M. CINDY WILSON

ALSO PRESENT:

RUSTY BURNS
KIM POULIN
LEON HARMON
RITA DAVIS

1 TOMMY DUNN: At this time I'd like to
2 call the Anderson County Council regular Council
3 meeting of March 17th to order. And before I ask the
4 Honorable Francis Crowder to lead us in the Invocation
5 and Pledge of Allegiance, I'd like to just -- would
6 everybody keep in your thoughts and prayers the family
7 of Ms. Frankie Dickerson. She served several years on
8 the Advisory Board of the Museum Committee and also
9 worked the front and volunteered to work the front
10 desk there, so let's please keep her in our thoughts
11 -- her and her family in our thoughts and prayers. At
12 this time we all rise. Mr. Crowder.

13 **(INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY**
14 **FRANCIS CROWDER)**

15 TOMMY DUNN: At this time are there any
16 changes or corrections to be made to the March 3rd
17 regular Council meeting?

18 FRANCIS CROWDER: Mr. Chairman?

19 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Crowder.

20 FRANCIS CROWDER: I just have two. On page 8
21 of the minutes, line 41, insert the word forty-seven.
22 On page 10, line 16, insert I have. Thank you,
23 Chairman.

24 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Crowder.

25 CINDY WILSON: May I?

26 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson?

27 CINDY WILSON: I'm not sure, this is
28 subject to confirmation, but I think on page 3,
29 instead of Misty I believe it's Missy, but get someone
30 to check. And then on page 4, line 19, I think rather
31 than Daylan Kramer, I believe it was Gaylan Creamer.
32 And that would be C-R-E-A-M-E-R. I believe that's
33 all. Thank you.

34 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?
35 We have a motion to accept with those changes and
36 corrections?

37 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

38 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson. We have a
39 second? Mr. Allen. All in favor of the motion show
40 of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
41 unanimously.

42 Moving on to Item number 4, Citizens
43 Comments. As Mr. Harmon calls your name, please step
44 forward. These matters first on the agenda -- matters
45 you're addressing. You got three minutes. Matters
46 that's on the agenda items. Please address the Chair,
47 and keep in mind this is a Council meeting, it's not a
48 Town Hall meeting. Let's be civil. We don't have no
49 name calling. If you do I'm going to ask you to step
50 outside or I'll ask the gentlemen in the back to get

1 you outside. Keep orderly meeting here, we've got a
2 lot to go over and this is a Council meeting. Mr.
3 Harmon.

4 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, there are ten
5 citizens signed up to speak. First person is Frank
6 Pressly.

7 FRANK PRESSLY: Thank you. Frank Pressly.
8 I'm addressing Item number 11(c). As has been
9 expressed in the past, this move to short circuit the
10 pursuit of Joey Preston has been seen coming a long
11 time. We were assured by you, Mr. Chairman, that this
12 journey to justice would not be derailed under any
13 circumstance. I find this resolution shamefully
14 convenient as to timing, just prior to the Court of
15 Appeals scheduled hearing of this case and the demand
16 by a federal judge that Joey Preston should show cause
17 why he should not pay back one point two million
18 dollars he was paid out from the criminal enterprise
19 ponzi scheme run by his colleague and our former
20 council member Ron Wilson. The same person who, by
21 his own admission, supposedly single-handedly came up
22 with this pay-out Mr. Preston received. If there was
23 nothing to it, the Appeals Court wouldn't have
24 accepted it. All we've heard from Joey Preston's
25 supporters is that it has cost too much and taken too
26 long. Both conditions that have not been brought
27 about by us, but by Joey and his attorneys themselves.
28 It is increasingly obvious every bit of this has been
29 orchestrated and contrived down to the last detail.
30 The fact that you are now sitting in the position to
31 bring this to a vote and to shove whatever outcome
32 there is down our throat just lets you know that
33 because this matter is potentially closed that it may
34 bring your personal finances to the table. The sheer
35 madness of this is, is that by passing this resolution
36 you are giving away the most powerful leverage that we
37 have and that's to drop the case. You tell our
38 attorneys you have to drop the case, that means we
39 have to prostrate ourselves in front of Mr. Preston
40 and accept whatever outcome he gives us. Law is about
41 negotiation and if he wants this case to be dropped,
42 he needs to give something up or give something back.

43 Now what I'd like to do -- on the heels of
44 this I'd like to address Item number 2(d) specifically
45 the request by Robert Carroll for the transfer of
46 seventy-five hundred dollars from the IT department to
47 facilitate the shredding of county documents related
48 to county operations. And I'd like for you to think
49 about this. Transfer requests is from Robert Carroll,
50 the director of Central Administrative Services. Does

1 Mr. Carroll not have the foresight to budget for
2 routine shredding? Why does he need this County
3 Council to approve this transfer for this specific
4 purpose? Well, I'll tell you how this will play out.
5 Sometime in the future -- if and I say if -- there
6 were any kind of investigation by the Justice
7 Department or any other criminal or civil complaints
8 filed in the federal courts or against any one or
9 combination of you sitting there or the bureaucracy
10 still left in place from the Preston era, the
11 shredding of evidence or the back story to financial
12 dealings will be a pinnacle issue. And if you're one
13 of the Council members who votes to approve this
14 transfer for this specific purpose you are giving
15 tacit approval for the shredding of those documents.
16 Mr. Carroll will be able to say with plausible deny-
17 ability that he did not do it, but that you all, in
18 fact, gave permission for those documents to be
19 shredded. Now is not a time that we should be
20 shredding documents. Until all of this is settled, we
21 need to put a moratorium on the shredding of documents
22 because they may be ---

23 LEON HARMON: Time.

24 FRANK PRESSLY: --- called for in the
25 future.

26 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

27 Next.

28 LEON HARMON: Next person is Charles
29 Crowe.

30 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Burns, will you help
31 him make sure he gets that mike?

32 CHARLES CROWE: I'm just -- that's good.
33 Thank you. I got it. My name is Charles Crowe from
34 the Five Forks Precinct. And after hearing your
35 instructions tonight, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to have
36 just forget my whole entire presentation tonight and
37 just speak straight to you people. I'm here tonight
38 to speak against this 11(c), the thing on the agenda.
39 It's something that -- it needs to follow the course.
40 And the course was -- if I recall right, and I've been
41 to a lot of the meetings, this Council minus two --
42 one that wasn't on the Council and one that voted
43 against it -- the last vote you did on this was y'all
44 voted to carry this to -- through the appellate
45 process. So I, for one, would like to hold you to the
46 vote and commitment that this Council made. And so, I
47 know it was a year ago and there was a -- and it was
48 also a resolution and it's only good for a year. I
49 know all that. But rather than getting into name
50 calling -- and I would like to tell you this. No

1 names, but I'll name -- I'll say there's five people
2 that people in this county just hold in total
3 disregard. I hope nobody here tonight votes for this
4 resolution because your name will be added to that
5 list.

6 And I thank you, Mr. Chairman and I
7 apologize. I couldn't name no names, but at least
8 everybody knows who we're talking about. Thank you
9 very much.

10 TOMMY DUNN: Next, Mr. Harmon.

11 LEON HARMON: Next person is Mark Powell.

12 MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, County
13 District 7. Concerning the 11(c), there's seven of
14 you sitting there. Only one of you have the D beside
15 your name. I'm just curious, last night was the
16 Anderson County Republican Party reorganization. How
17 many of you were there to sign up as part of our
18 party? Be an intriguing answer.

19 Pertaining to the Joey Preston thing. You
20 know, it's interesting, the last poll that Anderson
21 Independent did, it looked like settle, settle,
22 settle. Lo and behold, now that Ron Wilson has been
23 exposed, now that Joey Preston has been exposed being
24 involved with all that, let's please don't forget Ron
25 Wilson is the person who wrote, or had written, the
26 more than three times the value of the contract that
27 Joey could have, would have, or should have been
28 bought out at. Please don't forget that. So the tide
29 has turned. I know many of you have people in your
30 district who say, oh my God, I am so sick of this.
31 You know, what? They only hear what the news says.
32 If they haven't been here and lived this thing for
33 almost six years like a lot of us have, we take it
34 personal. I wish I could be one of those people like
35 some of your constituents who are begging you to
36 settle this thing and sit at home and not care and
37 read in the paper, oh I am sick of how much money
38 Anderson County is spending. Wait a minute. Why did
39 we spend so much money? Gracie Floyd's lawyer. Why
40 did we spend so much money on that? The Montaparas.
41 Where the heck are the Montaparas now? Their house is
42 boarded up. They have cost us millions. Millions.
43 Hundreds -- okay, thousands, hundreds of thousands of
44 extra dollars on their frivolous lawsuits that they
45 tried to stop the situation when it first started.
46 Where are they now? Where are we? We are here.
47 We're begging you. Please understand that for
48 somehow, some reason, the guys who work in that
49 building behind us are so tied to Anderson County they

1 won't make this thing happen. Matter of fact, one of
2 the judges said, why would we even do this? He don't
3 have no money to give it back anyway. He has one
4 point something million dollars from the gold and
5 silver scheme. So maybe he does have some money to
6 give back. He can't pay his Visa bill or American
7 Express; his house is in foreclosure. What is he
8 doing with the hundred thousand he gets for Bamberg?
9 What he's doing with eight or so thousand dollars he
10 gets a month from my taxes? Look, people, this needs
11 to go forward at the Supreme Court level everything
12 that has been shot down across the street by the local
13 yokel judges who are appointed, not elected, has been
14 in our favor down in Columbia. This thing only has a
15 little farther ways to go; let it keep going. It's
16 ludicrous that an individual sitting there with a D
17 beside her name would actually say that this is
18 hurting jobs. Oh my god. You guys have brought so
19 many jobs to this county in the last five years, we're
20 fixing to hear some more that Mr. Nelson's going to be
21 talking about tonight. How could anyone claim that
22 this is hurting Anderson County as far as the Joey
23 Preston thing? Y'all are rocking; working hard and
24 getting many a jobs here ---

25 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.

26 MARK POWELL: Thank you for your
27 consideration.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Next.

29 LEON HARMON: Ron Gilreath.

30 RON GILREATH: Good evening, Ladies and
31 Gentlemen. My name is Ron Gilreath. I live in County
32 Council District 3. I was excited to see Ms. Floyd's
33 proposed resolution in today's paper. I personally
34 have always been opposed to this litigation. In my
35 reduced rounds today -- and it was reduced because I
36 spent a half a day working on my taxes -- but in my
37 reduced rounds today, I had solicited opinions and
38 feelings from thirty of my acquaintances. All thirty,
39 unequivocally, voiced their support for this
40 resolution. I am here to ask you on their behalf to
41 vote yes on the resolution. One hundred percent of
42 the citizens of Anderson County that I talked to today
43 are ready to move on. Thank you.

44 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Harmon.

45 LEON HARMON: Bob Martin.

46 BOB MARTIN: Bob Martin, District 1.

47 Ladies and Gentlemen, I have three minutes to appeal
48 to your moral fiber. You were elected to represent
49 everybody. I don't stand here to represent thirty
50 people. I stand here to represent your obligation.

1 And I wish that anybody who votes for this tonight
2 would resign so that we could have a special election
3 and see if they retain their seat. Now I know that's
4 not going to happen because you don't have courage
5 enough to do it. But you made a pact with us and I
6 ask you to keep it. And if you can't keep it tell me
7 why you can't keep it. I know people can change their
8 mind and I respect that. Whether you believe it or
9 not I respect everyone of you for the time you spend
10 here and for the service that you're giving Anderson
11 County. But this isn't service. This is betrayal.
12 Thank you.

13 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.
14 LEON HARMON: Denny Floyd.
15 DENNY FLOYD: Thank you. My name is
16 Denny Floyd, Council District 5. I wanted to come to
17 you and talk about the Joey Preston thing on the
18 agenda tonight. One, we've heard over the past about
19 our representatives -- or our people out here y'all
20 say is calling saying settle this thing, settle this
21 thing. Majority, majority. But I'll tell you, I got
22 to looking and each one of you has got an average of
23 about twenty-seven thousand residents in each one of
24 the districts. Which means, you've received over
25 thirteen thousand calls if the majority has been
26 telling you that. What you've received is hundreds of
27 calls and they yelled the loudest. That's how you
28 show strength, by yelling and screaming the loudest.
29 It's a military tactic. So it doesn't work. You're
30 smart enough to know that and I appreciate the fact
31 that you are. This thing needs to stop. It needs to
32 stop now. The one that's put it on the agenda should
33 not be voting one way or the other on this. The
34 representative from Council 3, I'll tell you have the
35 paperwork before you now. In 2003 and 2004, he was
36 part of the Library trustees. Well, if you look at
37 the picture and some of the writing, well, guess who
38 he's tied in with at that point and time? That's Mr.
39 Greer and Mr. Joey Preston. Is this -- now just a
40 question -- is this, ten years later, finally getting
41 on Council, time to pay back debt? Because in the
42 last Council, it was. They traded each other. They
43 took care of each other. One scratched ones back, the
44 other one scratched the other one. The Councilman in
45 District 3 should not vote. It's a moral issue. He
46 should know that. You can stand in the choir and sing
47 all day long. But when you get outside it's what you
48 do. Jesus Christ's favorite angel was Lucifer. Look
49 where he's at today. Y'all need to do what you said
50 you would do in the past and that's carry this on.

1 The money has been spent. All the money spent.
2 You're down to pennies. To stop now, to stop now
3 would be one of two things, in my opinion. It would
4 either be you're corrupt or stupidity. But that's my
5 opinion. But everybody else can have their own. But
6 I want to say, I appreciate everyone of you and the
7 pressure y'all have had.
8 Mr. Chairman, I do realize you have had
9 people tell you that it's time to stop it. But those
10 numbers are the low numbers not the high numbers. And
11 I appreciate the pressure all of you have been under
12 trying to get this thing settled. It's time to do
13 what's right for the people and this county. And if
14 you settle this now, I can tell you, I firmly believe
15 from stuff I've heard, you're opening yourself up for
16 way more lawsuits than what you're dealing with right
17 now. Thank y'all very much.
18 LEON HARMON: Buddy Ferguson.
19 BUDDY FERGUSON: Thank you. Ladies and
20 Gentlemen, I'm Buddy Ferguson. I live in District 3.
21 And first, I would like to take exception to what the
22 previous speaker said about my Councilman. I know him
23 to be a fine man with his morals beyond reproach. And
24 I guess the name calling doesn't apply to some folks,
25 but that's all I'm going to say about any individual.
26 My point for being here is I'm a taxpayer. I
27 think it's time to put a stop to this lawsuit. The
28 issue before you has cost this county a tremendous
29 amount of money. It continues to cost this county a
30 tremendous amount of money. We have needs that could
31 be addressed with that money. Whether you were in
32 favor of or opposed to it to start with, I think it's
33 time for it to end. The voters -- you asked about a
34 majority. The voters of District 3 let theirselves be
35 heard on election day and elected Mr. Cole because of
36 his stance on this issue. That's a majority. That's
37 our democratic process.
38 Now, we in Belton don't enjoy the growth that
39 the rest of the county has seen. We can't even get a
40 Walmart to build a store between Belton and Honea
41 Path; a small one at that. We have lost all of our
42 industry. We have lost all of our jobs. We don't
43 have money to redo the parks for the kids. The only
44 people benefitting from pursuing this lawsuit at this
45 point are the lawyers. And in my opinion the lawyers
46 are rich enough.
47 It's been said that you are here to represent
48 the citizens of Anderson County. I urge you, when you
49 vote, to consider all of the citizens of Anderson
50 County and what is in their best interest from a

1 business standpoint, not from an emotional standpoint.
2 Stop throwing good money after bad down a dark hole
3 that we don't -- no way possibly can recoup for this
4 county. Thank you for your time.

5 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

6 LEON HARMON: Elizabeth Fant.

7 ELIZABETH FANT: Today's lesson is on the
8 three C's; courage, conviction and character. Do you
9 have the courage to go through with this? Do you have
10 the conviction to see it through? And do you have the
11 character to not be swayed by money? Money talks. I
12 see that we do this every time we start council. We
13 say the Pledge of Allegiance. And I wonder how many
14 of you really believe it; under God? I see one
15 council member every time we have the prayer who never
16 prays; looks out and wanders, and never -- and she's
17 smiling about it now. She thinks it's funny. It's
18 not funny. We need to have men and women of
19 character. I understand what my compadres in District
20 3 are saying. Everybody's tired of this. Everybody's
21 tired of the money spent. But if you don't go forward
22 with this and let the appeals process do what it's
23 supposed to do, you're opening up a can of worms
24 that's going to ask all of us to foot a bill of more
25 than a million dollars more because that's what the
26 Preston lawyers are going to ask for. District 3
27 representative did not write this. This is straight
28 out of her lawyer, Joey Preston's lawyer, all the
29 cronies that are working against this thing to make it
30 happen for him.

31 In the Bible, in Deuteronomy, we talk about
32 the Ten Commandments. Several of the Ten
33 Commandments; you must not murder, you must not commit
34 adultery. Our former administrator admitted to doing
35 that. Many of the staff on -- in our district area
36 were doing the same thing under his direction. In
37 fact, several members -- Mr. Cole, you know one of
38 them -- were doing it. Blatantly in front of us. You
39 must not testify falsely against your neighbor.
40 Catergate and the whole thing with the sheriff's
41 department was nothing but a coverup for Joey Preston.
42 I'm asking you, Mr. Cole, to think beyond what people
43 are telling you and let's finish this thing up and be,
44 indeed, a man of character, conviction, and do the
45 right thing. You're new on the block. You don't know
46 from hell's bin what all has happened. It needs to go
47 through. If it goes through the appeals process and
48 it goes down the drain at least we have said we could
49 do what we could do. I appeal to you to be a man of
50 character, courage and conviction.

1 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman. Peggy
2 Taylor.

3 PEGGY TAYLOR: Peggy Taylor, District 3,
4 Hall Precinct. I come to you -- is that low enough;
5 can you hear? I am speaking on 11(c), too. I am
6 appealing to each of you. I am appealing for each of
7 you to go forward with this. We've been through this
8 a long time. You are men and ladies of character and
9 I agree with what Ms. Fant said, and conviction. We
10 talk about money. People say, well, there's no need
11 to go forward, he does not have the money, anyway.
12 Okay. We gave him one point two million dollars. Of
13 that, it went to state retirement. We are continuing
14 to pay him eight thousand dollars a month. If he
15 lives twenty years, the state retirement system's
16 going to pay out two million dollars. Now, many of
17 you are state employees. We have state teachers,
18 county employees; this is your money. And I do beg of
19 you to please let's go forward. It's kind of like
20 we're running a race. We get to the finish line and
21 we're looking at it and we quit. Why? But now, even
22 if you really feel that you want to quit -- if you
23 want to give his attorneys seven hundred and seventy-
24 five thousand dollars or so, I have a suggestion where
25 the money should come from. If you're so convinced,
26 let's take your salaries. You make eight thousand
27 dollars a month, we can get, you know, for a few years
28 we could take your salary. And then county employees
29 ---

30 TOM ALLEN: How much?
31 PEGGY TAYLOR: Eight thousand a year?
32 Seven thousand a year?

33 TOM ALLEN: Thank you. I ---
34 PEGGY TAYLOR: Seven or eight thousand a
35 year, somewhere in that line. Then we can take county
36 employees salaries. Say those making above sixty
37 thousand dollars a year, cut their pay ten percent.
38 Let's show how convinced we are that it's the right
39 thing to do. I know there are county employees who
40 want to stop. I know there are some of you who want
41 to stop. But there is -- you cannot put a price on
42 justice.

43 Right now the Boston Marathon trial is going
44 on. They're going to spend millions of dollars on
45 that trial. Why don't they just stop? Could you
46 realize how much money they could save by stopping the
47 trial? Just stop. But justice is not free. And we
48 have got to go forward. And I do beg of you, please
49 keep your word, the promise you made us a year ago.
50 Thank you.

1 LEON HARMON: Jean Pruitt.
2 JEAN PRUITT: Yes, I'm Jean Pruitt from
3 District 3; County District 3. And I'm here to speak
4 on the Joey Preston, too. I know everybody's tired of
5 it. I'm tired of it. In fact, I quit coming to
6 Council because I'm so sick of it. But I saw the
7 survey this morning in the Independent and it didn't
8 look like to me that the majority was wanting you to
9 settle this case. We had more that wanted you to
10 carry it on and the man talking about the money in
11 Belton, not having anything in Belton. Well, District
12 3, Mr. Cole lives there. Why hasn't he worked to try
13 to get something in Belton? And I been -- I heard
14 somebody say a while ago that you are supposed to
15 represent all of us. I had a Councilman to tell me
16 today he only represented his district, not the
17 county. Just his district. And I think that we have
18 been through pure hell with this. And a lot of people
19 -- you talk to them and they don't even know anything
20 about what happened when Joey Preston was here. They
21 don't care. How many came to the Republican meeting
22 tonight? All of you are supposed to be Republicans
23 but one. One is wanting to pay Joey off and one that
24 was involved in the payoff. And I think that she
25 shouldn't vote. I think that if Mr. Cole did do what
26 he said, he shouldn't vote. And I know you work hard
27 and I appreciate all that you do for this county. We
28 get aggravated and we're upset. And nobody knows
29 unless they go up and look at the Daniel report how
30 much money Joey Preston spent under the table for
31 lawyers. Look how much he sued our County Council; he
32 cost our county so much money. But who paid it? We
33 did, the taxpayers, and we're still paying him. And I
34 think it's time that we let it go on, let it go to the
35 very end and if they say that give it to him, then all
36 we can say is we tried. And hope and pray that we
37 don't ever have to go through this again.

38 And I hope that this Council just takes a
39 look at what all we've been through. A lot of you
40 don't even know what Joey did. Don't know what all
41 he's been through. And I sat there and listened to
42 that little girl say that she had an eight year affair
43 with Joey Preston. If that's not enough for him to be
44 fired, what is? But he had people on the Council that
45 had women. I know for a fact they did. And was they
46 fired? No. He had that over their head so they did
47 everything that he wanted them to do.

48 So, Mr. Cole, you are my Councilman now and I
49 pray that you -- I know you ran on stopping this case.
50 I heard that over and over and over again. I want you

1 to know that a lot of people was just tired and they
2 gave up and it's not that they didn't like Eddie.
3 Eddie Moore was one of the best Councilmen we've ever
4 had. And the ones here that talk about how much money
5 we spent, they don't know the half of it. And where
6 are all these people, these thirty people, the hundred
7 people that he went to see today? How many people are
8 here that is saying let this case go on? There's
9 people here I've never seen before.

10 LEON HARMON: Time.

11 TOMMY DUNN: Time. Anyone else?

12 LEON HARMON: No one else signed up, Mr.
13 Chairman.

14 TOMMY DUNN: That's it. Have to sign
15 up.

16 Moving on to Item number 5 our Annual Report
17 from Council of Governments. Mr. Steve Pelissier.

18 STEVE PELISSIER: (Not audible until they got
19 the mike fixed)

20 TOMMY DUNN: Hold on a minute, Mr.
21 Pelissier. We must have a technical problem.

22 STEVE PELISSIER: All right. This one work
23 better? Very good. We were pleased that we were able
24 to help entities in Anderson County secure a little
25 over one point eight million in federal grant funds
26 this year, including a sixty thousand dollar grant to
27 the county for the Gossett Street Brownfield project.
28 Seven hundred fifty thousand dollars to the town of
29 Iva for town-wide water system improvements. Half a
30 million dollars to the town of Pendleton for Mechanics
31 Street upgrade and sewer project. Four hundred forty-
32 four thousand dollars to Williamston for the Pinecrest
33 Sewer upgrade project. And sixty-six thousand dollars
34 -- additional sixty-six thousand dollars to
35 Williamston for the Farmers Market Community Center
36 project. We were able to provide a little over one
37 point one million dollars in services to seniors in
38 the county. This includes fifty-two thousand meals,
39 in addition to medical services, doctors'
40 appointments, shelter, transportation, home care, home
41 health care, and minor home repair. Obviously this
42 helps to reduce the strain on the county for serving a
43 growing and significant portion of your population.

44 We made a hundred and sixty-three thousand
45 dollars in loans to small businesses in the county
46 which helped to leverage two hundred forty-four
47 thousand in private capital and created eleven new
48 jobs in the county and through this entrepreneurial
49 and small business loan program it is really neat in
50 that it's one of the few programs out there that

1 target the home grown business, the little guy. Of
2 course, of a lot of with our economic development
3 incentives for good reason. We're looking for the
4 more significant investment and those that have a
5 multiplier effects, but it's nice to help the little
6 guy, as well. We were able to provide two hundred and
7 twenty thousand dollars for transit services. Able to
8 buy a bus and a van for the DSN board. Two vans for
9 senior solutions to help get folks where they need
10 around the county as well. And then finally, through
11 our partners, our friends at Worklink, they provided
12 one point three million in workforce development
13 money. This is money that goes to train people for
14 jobs. Whether that's out of school youth or adults,
15 incumbent workers, apprenticeship, and folks who have
16 lost their job due to changes in the economy.

17 In addition to the financial return to the
18 county, we provide other services as well, which I
19 list on pages two and three. I'm not going to read
20 the whole list to you, but maybe a couple of
21 highlights. As you can see in the handout, we
22 continue to administer some grant projects that were
23 awarded in the previous year -- the QuickJob Center
24 for Tri-County Tech, town of Iva sewer improvements,
25 West Pelzer water improvements, Williamston sewer
26 improvements. A significant one over this past year
27 was we got placed on the DOT program and now have
28 preliminary engineering for the US 29 Cherokee Road
29 bridge project. Very dangerous situation with a low
30 bridge and a high road and tall trucks that don't work
31 too well.

32 I think when I gave my report last year I
33 mentioned when this program was going through, a
34 gentleman from Spartanburg County who was much younger
35 and perhaps probably much quicker than Mr. Crowder,
36 suggested that perhaps these funds should be
37 transferred to the Inland Port. And made a case for
38 that to which Mr. Crowder's response was, go ahead,
39 punk, make my day. As you can see, those funds are in
40 Anderson County.

41 Worked with the County, the City of Anderson
42 and Belton on the home program. Did some
43 rehabilitation to eighteen homes at a total of four
44 hundred twenty-two thousand dollars. Continue to work
45 closely with our good friend Mr. Nelson and the
46 Economic Development staff with our infoMENTUM program
47 providing assistance in helping them to respond to
48 requests for information in carrying out their vital
49 service.

50 Have others on there, but again don't want to

1 take all the time to go through those. Do hope you'll
2 read those in your -- as you have time.

3 And on the final page, I give a ten year
4 summary of grants to entities in Anderson County that
5 we've worked with folks on and that total for this
6 year comes to about ten point four million dollars and
7 you can see the various projects in the handout.

8 Mr. Dunn, that concludes my prepared remarks,
9 but I'd certainly be glad to respond to any questions.

10 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone have any
11 questions or comments? Ms. Wilson.

12 CINDY WILSON: Quick thank you. Few
13 people really completely understand the wonderful
14 asset and resource that we have in the Appalachian
15 Council of Governments. And if you would be so kind,
16 Mr. Pelissier, to tell the public how they can access
17 that part of the public available InfoMENTUM site so
18 that they can see what an incredible tool is
19 available. I think there's a free public site?

20 STEVE PELISSIER: There is. I'd be glad to,
21 Ms. Wilson. The InfoMENTUM program that we're talking
22 about not only serves economic developers to give
23 information that industrial and other business
24 prospects need, but does also have a public site
25 which, used by businesses, students, people just
26 looking for economic information, demographic
27 information, workforce information, commuting
28 patterns, and stuff like that. Couple of ways to
29 access that. Probably the easiest is to go to google
30 and just type in InfoMENTUM in South Carolina or
31 www.SCInfomentum.org or www.scacog.org but probably
32 easiest just to google InfoMENTUM in South Carolina.

33 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Pelissier.
34 That goes under the heading of knowledge is power.
35 And with the wonderful teamwork for our Upstate and
36 the county in particular, we have made incredible
37 progress in rejuvenating the business community.
38 Anderson County's open for business and I believe
39 we're ranked number seven in the nation right now.
40 But thank you for your role in that. And it's going
41 to really help the east side of the county to have
42 that Highway 29 project available soon.

43 Thank you, Mr. Crowder, and all who helped.
44 Thank you.

45 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?

46 TOM ALLEN: Mr. Chair?

47 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen.

48 TOM ALLEN: Just real quickly. Steve,
49 I want to thank you for the work you do. You're
50 actually helping bring money into this county and

1 you're doing a great job of it. But now next year, we
2 may hit you up for a grant for a better sound system
3 so when you come next year we'll be all set. Thanks.
4 Seriously, thank you, Steve.

5 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Crowder.
6 FRANCIS CROWDER: Well, certainly having been
7 a businessman in my prior life, before becoming a
8 politician, hahaha, there was one factor that I always
9 looked at. It's called return on investment. Return
10 on investment. Where else can we invest seventy-five
11 thousand dollars and in return get multi-million
12 dollars? I appreciate the professional staff that you
13 have that works diligently on our behalf. I think
14 also it's an example that one council member from one
15 district worked on behalf of another district that
16 needed a bridge raising and a road being built so we
17 on Council do not just look at things that are for our
18 district. We are committed to Anderson County. But
19 we especially thank you for your leadership. Thank
20 you.

21 TOMMY DUNN: We really do appreciate you
22 and Appalachian for Government, what all y'all do and
23 for Anderson County and really appreciate the
24 opportunity to work on things together. Thank you
25 very much.

26 STEVE PELLISIER: Thank y'all for having me.

27 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to Item number 6,
28 presentation of JROTC Finalist Drill from February 21,
29 Mr. Ken Waters and Ms. Angie Stringer.

30 KEN WATERS: All right. This is some
31 competition that the ROTC did out at the Civic Center
32 about three weeks ago; two or three weeks ago. And we
33 had some video of that and you can turn your monitors
34 on up here and take a look at that and then you people
35 in the audience will be able to see it up here. And I
36 think Pendleton is going to be doing this every year,
37 is that correct, Mr. ... Yeah, and so, I'm glad to
38 see the schools working with us on -- working together
39 with us on using that. Ms. Stringer, go ahead.

40 **(VIDEO PRESENTATION)**

41 TOMMY DUNN: She said she'll be glad to
42 make you a copy, personal copy.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I'd like to see it
44 now and I'd like for the folks to see it now.

45 TOMMY DUNN: Can y'all see it, out here?

46 GRACIE FLOYD: It's a little dark. Some
47 of the pictures are so dark you can't see it.

48 TOMMY DUNN: Must be your screen, Ms.
49 Floyd. It's showing up.

50 **(VIDEO PRESENTATION CONTINUED)**

1 KEN WATERS: Look forward to next year.
2 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Waters. Mr.

3 Allen.

4 TOM ALLEN: Mr. Chair, yes, this was
5 sponsored by the School District 4 ROTC folks. They
6 had twelve teams here this year. They're hoping to
7 have at least twenty teams next year. And it really
8 is interesting to see if you get a chance to stop
9 over. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Stringer.

11 Moving on to Item number 7, Request to
12 address Council concerning regional airport noise.
13 Mr. Norman Craft. Mr. Craft.

14 NORMAN CRAFT: Thank you, Council, for
15 letting me appear here tonight. I came to -- I wanted
16 to express -- get an opinion on all this stuff, but I
17 won't have the time so all I want to do tonight is
18 talk about the air rights. I live out there off
19 Highway 24. I live right across from the airport. I
20 have been served with condemnation notices by eminent
21 domain. But if I want -- I want you to take the paper
22 and I want you to look. Turn to the second page.
23 This is my house. And then I want you to turn to the
24 third page. If you'll notice that there are four
25 pictures there and all those pictures there are taken
26 with that tree in front of the house. You see it. If
27 you go to the two back pages back there, you'll find
28 there's one chimney that's drawn on that plat and then
29 you go to the next back to page you'll find one
30 chimney. But they made a mistake there somewhere.
31 There are two chimneys there. And if you go back to
32 the second page, everyone of these photographs cover
33 that chimney up. That chimney's not there in the
34 photograph.

35 Now I've got it on my phone right here that I
36 took a picture of it before I left home. And the way
37 that I took the picture, I got to the right of the
38 tree and I got the chimney. I've been offered twenty-
39 six hundred dollars for air rights. But in the
40 meeting we had in 2013, the lady was presenting this,
41 it was talking about easements. And up on the plat,
42 the screen there, it talked about air rights to
43 surrender. She was on the third page and I asked her
44 to go back. I said would you explain those air
45 rights? Oh, we're not here to talk about that. One
46 man beside me said how about the noise? Is it going
47 to increase? We're not going to talk about that. So
48 now, if you look now, why was that chimney left out?

49 Well, I had an appraiser come out for the
50 property and then I got a surveyor. Man right here in

1 town. And they surveyed it and the reason that that
2 chimney is not included in that drawing is that
3 chimney is three feet up in the air right. That
4 condemns my property; doesn't it, Mr. Burns? Does
5 that condemn my property? How about you, Tommy, does
6 it condemn it?

7 TOMMY DUNN: I don't know. I'll have to
8 find out and be sure. I just don't know. But I
9 wasn't aware of the chimney situation.

10 NORMAN CRAFT: But see, it's real evident
11 the way the pictures were taken. Now, also, too, the
12 company that did this, it says the appraisal process
13 requires that the appraiser understand and employ
14 proper valuation techniques that are necessary to
15 produce a credible value estimate. Not commit a
16 substantial error. Not render appraisal services in a
17 careless or negligent manner and sufficiently analyze
18 prior sales or current contracts on the subject
19 property. It says it is assumed that there are no
20 hidden or in-apparent conditions of the properties,
21 subsoil or structures that render it more or less
22 valuable. So then, why was that chimney left out?
23 It's been pushed down our throats out there. They
24 would not answer questions, even air rights. They
25 haven't got an answer yet as far as what air rights we
26 give up. I know that I saw one on that screen up
27 there that when we sign over to give you air rights we
28 can't complain about noise.

29 One night a plane came in -- left at three
30 thirty in the morning. Is another jet -- hadn't been
31 coming, but it cracked windows in the man's house
32 behind me. My house shook. Now the Chinook
33 helicopters have been coming in, but I called the
34 manager out there at the airport and told him that jet
35 was from Clemson, so I called the President of the
36 college up there, and ESPN will charter planes coming
37 in. I haven't heard them anymore since then. They
38 said they'd do everything they could to stop it. And
39 then the Chinook airplanes. I've been trying to get
40 the name of the military officer in Greenville that I
41 want to talk to him and see who got him to start
42 coming to the airport over there. I finally called
43 Lindsey Graham and they gave me a number to call and
44 said if that don't work, call back. Call back. Now
45 we live out there -- I been out there since 1963 and
46 gradually watched the airport grow. And now the noise
47 is increasing. Right now there's a bunch of people --
48 we're getting up a petition to try to close it down.
49 We know they can't do that, but we're going to let you
50 know how we feel. Would you, would you, since y'all

1 feel intent of pushing down our throats with the noise
2 and all that's going on, would you trade houses with
3 us? Will you trade houses with me, Tommy?
4 TOMMY DUNN: No, sir.
5 NORMAN CRAFT: Would you? You? How about
6 that, people? They want us to go through it, but they
7 don't want to go through it. Right?
8 TOMMY DUNN: How about address the
9 Chair, here. Address the Chair. We don't have no
10 participation from the audience.
11 NORMAN CRAFT: Do what, Tommy?
12 TOMMY DUNN: No participation out there.
13 Address the Chair and we'll get through this right
14 here.
15 NORMAN CRAFT: Okay. But you see what
16 we're going through out there? We're having to put up
17 with it.
18 Now, they gave me an estimate of twenty-six
19 hundred dollars. But then they didn't include that
20 chimney; that condemns my house. You understand, see?
21 You see how they're trying to push it through. No
22 matter what we say. You're the elite; we're the
23 peons. It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. But
24 you won't trade houses with us. Or when the surveyor
25 came out, he was out there surveying my property. I
26 said what are you doing? He said I'm surveying. I
27 said I didn't give you permission to do that. He said
28 I got a court order that says I can. I said you know
29 it takes low life people like you to do something like
30 this to a taxpaying people. Honest people that try to
31 do it right. But I said here's one thing I want to
32 do. I want to come to your house, I want to go
33 through your house and anything that I find that you
34 don't need -- that I feel that you don't need I'm
35 going to take it. Oh, you're not coming to my house.
36 No.
37 But y'all have no regard for the other
38 person, this man right here, he's the pusher of it.
39 Mr. Burns. He's the pusher. And he has no concern
40 about us as far as what we think. Why don't you put
41 it to a vote, Tommy? That's your district out there.
42 Why don't you put it to a vote to see whether the
43 people want it or not? What I'd like for you to do is
44 send out a petition and you describe the air rights
45 that the people give up. I can't get nobody to tell
46 me what they are that we give up. I do know about the
47 noise. But then you tell how it's going to devalue
48 the property. Our property out there -- when this all
49 keeps going, our property is worth nothing. It's
50 worth nothing. But you won't trade with us, will you?

1 Uh-uh (negative). You won't take that hit yourselves.
2 You let us take it. And look what a job we did. Look
3 what a job we did.
4 People, you're not capable or rational enough
5 to make a competent decision. You know why? I can
6 answer that. Joey Preston pay-out. Isn't that
7 enough? That's enough. So, that's what -- and I'm
8 coming back later with some -- I don't have time for
9 all this other, but I'm coming back later. I have
10 some issues with this man and I've got other things I
11 need to bring up. I'll come back at another meeting.
12 Thank you.

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair?
14 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am.
15 GRACIE FLOYD: Sir? Mr. Dunn?
16 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am.
17 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm sorry.
18 TOMMY DUNN: Ma'am.
19 GRACIE FLOYD: No, I'm sorry.
20 NORMAN CRAFT: Y'all talking to me?
21 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Mr. Burns.
22 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma'am.
23 GRACIE FLOYD: What needs to be done here
24 to get this resolved?
25 RUSTY BURNS: It's a ---
26 GRACIE FLOYD: The man -- this gentleman
27 has a concern. All right. It's not in my district so
28 unfortunately I have not kept up, okay, with what's
29 going on. Okay. But I believe in doing the right
30 thing. Okay. What could be done here to get this
31 resolved?
32 NORMAN CRAFT: Could I answer one question
33 before he does?
34 GRACIE FLOYD: No, no, one moment, sir.
35 RUSTY BURNS: I can look into that
36 situation, Ms Floyd.
37 GRACIE FLOYD: I can't hear you.
38 RUSTY BURNS: I can look into that
39 situation.
40 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. We haven't already
41 made some strides yet involving this situation and
42 getting it solved?
43 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma'am. On many fronts
44 we have. Yes, ma'am.
45 NORMAN CRAFT: Let me do this. I'm going
46 to call FAA, Federal Aviation Administration. I'm
47 going to ask for an investigation on this. Now this
48 company that surveyed my property and came up with
49 that appraisal is supposed to be a reliable -- right?
50 Reliable. If you'll give me just a moment I'll show

1 you. You can't give me a moment. If everybody will
2 turn to the next to last page --
3 GRACIE FLOYD: Sir, please keep ---
4 TOMMY DUNN: How much time's left to
5 this thing right here?
6 GRACIE FLOYD: --- please keep in mind
7 that you only have a certain amount of time. You have
8 two more minutes to go.
9 NORMAN CRAFT: All right. If you'll look
10 on the last page, the elevation on that, down at the
11 bottom of my house right there in the middle is not
12 supposed to be but seven hundred and seventy-nine feet
13 as far as the sea level mean, but when this survey
14 found that my chimney was seven hundred and eighty-two
15 feet. Why did they leave it out? I mean ---
16 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. All right.
17 Okay. Wait a minute. Mr. Burns, is it possible that
18 you could sit with Mr. -- what's your name?
19 NORMAN CRAFT: Craft.
20 GRACIE FLOYD: --- Mr. Craft and come to
21 something that would please him as well as have the
22 county do what he wants even if it means getting a
23 mediator to work with the both of you, because he has
24 a point. I don't want to live where he lives. We had
25 the same situation this past couple of months when we
26 had a man who was living next door to a man who had
27 open sewage coming out of the man's yard into this
28 other person's yard. And we said we couldn't do
29 anything about that, either. But I wouldn't want to
30 live in his house with the sewer nor do I want to live
31 in this.
32 TOMMY DUNN: That's time.
33 GRACIE FLOYD: Excuse me.
34 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on.
35 GRACIE FLOYD: I have the floor.
36 TOMMY DUNN: That's time. Ten minutes
37 on this thing. If you want to ask to extend time, Ms.
38 Floyd, we will.
39 GRACIE FLOYD: No, I was just asking a
40 question.
41 TOMMY DUNN: Time expired on this
42 matter. You said he had two minutes. The time's
43 over. He's been keeping time down here.
44 GRACIE FLOYD: I know, but he had two
45 minutes, Mr. Chair.
46 TOMMY DUNN: Time's up on this matter.
47 Are you asking for any more time to extend for this?
48 GRACIE FLOYD: I just want to finish my
49 statement.
50 TOMMY DUNN: Time's up, Ms. Floyd.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: So I can't finish my
2 statement?
3 TOMMY DUNN: No, ma'am. What-you-call
4 it.
5 NORMAN CRAFT: That's one thing ---
6 TOMMY DUNN: Time. Kaput. That's it,
7 Mr. Craft. That's it. Appreciate you.
8 GRACIE FLOYD: That's the second time the
9 floor has been snatched out from under me.
10 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on next item number
11 8, third reading 8(a), 2015-006, authorizing pursuant
12 to title 4, chapter 1 of the code of laws of South
13 Carolina, 1976, as amended, the expansion of the
14 boundaries of the joint county industrial and business
15 park jointly developed with Greenville County, South
16 Carolina to include certain real property located in
17 Anderson County South Carolina; the execution and
18 delivery of an infrastructure credit agreement by and
19 among Anderson County, South Carolina, Piedmont Coca-
20 Cola Bottling Partnership and landlord, to provide for
21 infrastructure credits, and other related matters.
22 This will be a public hearing anyone wishing
23 to step forward to this and address this matter.
24 Please step forward and state your name and district
25 and address the Chair. Be a public hearing.
26 CHARLES CROWE: Charles Crowe, Five Forks
27 Community. Now, Mr. Chairman, I only got a question.
28 Well, I got several but I'll just ask the one and
29 maybe I might get some information. It's just a
30 question as to if this is a joint thing with Anderson
31 County and Greenville County, and we're -- it's been
32 stated that we're giving them thirty years of free
33 taxes, what is Greenville County contributing and are
34 they -- are we -- I know how the joint thing works,
35 what goes up in the park. If we went over there in
36 Greenville, Greenville would be the one having to give
37 the property taxes. But what's the balance here? And
38 how do we arrive at the thirty years in this kind of
39 stuff? And I'll take my seat. Thank you.
40 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?
41 Anyone else wishes to speak to this matter? Anyone at
42 all in this public hearing? Hearing none, hearing
43 will be closed. We're moving on, Mr. Burriss Nelson.
44 BURRISS NELSON: Seems like it's working
45 now, but maybe not. Mr. Chairman, members of Council,
46 -- no, it's not working. Mr. Chairman, members of
47 Council, we have before us for third reading and
48 public hearing Project Upstate, which is Coca-Cola
49 Consolidated. That is a multi-county park agreement
50 for an infrastructure credit. And in the first year

1 the property tax paid last year was a hundred and
2 seventeen dollars and then -- mercy -- first year's
3 property taxes, which will probably now be 2017, will
4 pay a hundred and seventy-five thousand eight hundred
5 dollars in property tax. The second year is a hundred
6 and seventy-three thousand to Anderson County. Four
7 hundred and sixty-six dollars. A hundred and seventy-
8 one thousand and it goes on and on. Total over thirty
9 years they will pay a hundred and sixty -- they'll pay
10 -- mercy, this is not the right -- I've got a hundred
11 and sixty-three million -- I'm not sure that's the
12 right number for thirty year. That's a lot of money.

13 FRANCIS CROWDER: I don't think that's the
14 right number.

15 BURRISS NELSON: The total taxes, over the
16 thirty years, would be six million four hundred and
17 sixty thousand seven hundred and seventy-three
18 dollars. That project is bringing a hundred and
19 forty-seven jobs. Average salary is nineteen hundred
20 and seven -- is nineteen dollars and seventy-two cents
21 an hour with an approximate payroll of five million
22 seven hundred and ninety thousand dollars. Capital
23 investment is thirteen point five million. It's a
24 thirty year agreement, six percent assessment ratio
25 and commercial property is a six percent assessment
26 ratio anyway. So the agreement sets with an SSRC of
27 thirty years that -- an SSRC of thirty percent that
28 runs for ten years. That runs about seventy-three
29 thousand dollars a year in discount which was
30 accounted in those numbers that I just gave so that
31 that's already taken off of those figures, and that is
32 an off-set for the sewer list station, sewer lines,
33 and fire suppression tank and fire suppression at the
34 plant facility.

35 First year community impact is twelve million
36 seven hundred thousand dollars. Over twenty years, a
37 hundred and forty-eight million dollars in total
38 impact to the community. This information comes to
39 Council as a recommendation from staff and Economic
40 Development Advisory Board and we respectfully request
41 you give favorable consideration to this project.

42 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson. We
43 have a motion?

44 KEN WATERS: I make a motion that we
45 move forward.

46 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Allen -- I mean
47 Mr. Waters, second by Ms. Wilson. Any discussion?
48 Mr. Allen?

49 TOM ALLEN: Mr. Chairman, if I could,
50 Mr. Crowe asked a question a second ago and maybe,

1 Burriss, you can answer this, if you can do it in
2 twenty-five words or less, how this joint park system
3 works and why we give them thirty years, but we're in
4 a joint situation and Greenville doesn't have to do
5 that. If you could explain that.

6 BURRISS NELSON: Multi-county park agreement
7 allows two counties to agree to tax the same property,
8 which makes it a type of fee-in-lieu of tax. We
9 actually share one percent of that fee stream because
10 it's no longer a tax, it becomes a fee, one percent of
11 that fee stream with Greenville. They have a
12 reciprocal agreement with projects that they have in
13 Greenville County. Their reciprocal agreement sends
14 us sixty thousand dollars a year more than we send
15 them. But it allows us to be able -- County Council
16 to be able to have the authority to handle the tax
17 flow coming off of that property to be used either for
18 some incentive or for some infrastructure development
19 or credit.

20 TOM ALLEN: And that's per -- is that
21 state law?

22 BURRISS NELSON: Per state law.

23 TOM ALLEN: State law. Okay. Now, if
24 this Coca-cola plant was going to be in Greenville
25 County and they had -- we had an industrial park
26 together, they might be giving the thirty year
27 reduction in taxes, fee-in-lieu of, and we would be
28 getting one percent. That's the way that works.
29 Okay. Thank you, sir.

30 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman?

31 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

32 CINDY WILSON: First of all,
33 congratulations, and it's always encouraging that we
34 have an expanding labor force as well as better
35 employment numbers. But would it be appropriate to
36 share this with Mr. Crowe after we finish third
37 reading? Okay. Thank you. That -- anyone who needs
38 a copy after we finish third reading, this would
39 provide a lot of information, except for the number
40 that has to be corrected. I'll give him mine; I
41 corrected it.

42 KEN WATERS: Burriss, excuse me, Mr.
43 Chairman.

44 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Waters.

45 KEN WATERS: If Mr. Crowe has any
46 questions, you available to answer those; is that
47 correct?

48 BURRISS NELSON: Correct.

49 KEN WATERS: Okay. That good with you?
50 Okey doke. Next question.

1 TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion
2 show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion
3 carries unanimously.

4 Moving on to Item number 9, second reading,
5 9(a) 2015-005, a supplemental ordinance to amend
6 ordinance 2014-016, the Operating and Capital Budgets
7 of Anderson County for the fiscal year beginning July
8 1, 2014 and ending June 30th.

9 This will be a public hearing anyone wishing
10 to step -- speak to this matter, please step forward
11 and state your name and district. Address the Chair,
12 please. Public hearing.

13 FRANK PRESSLY: Frank Pressly. I'm not
14 sure if this is covered in this ordinance ????. I
15 would ask her if this includes the transfer of the
16 hundred thousand dollars for voice over IP services
17 that was talked about two Finance Committee meetings
18 ago. Did it include this, do you know, Mr. Burns?
19 Okay. I previously expressed to -- a concern about
20 voice over IP services that are being purchased by the
21 county. In my experience, and I've had a lengthy
22 experience in voice over IP, generally the people who
23 -- the vendor who provides those services, much like
24 when you go and get a phone contract and sign a two
25 year commitment, and they give you the phone or give
26 it to you at a very reduced cost, that's how voice-
27 over IP systems work. Because the vendor makes the
28 money off the service and not off the hardware. They
29 generally give you the hardware. So I'm not sure
30 where this quarter of a million dollars -- because we
31 previously had a hundred and sixty thousand dollars
32 allocated to voice over IP so this is roughly a
33 quarter of a million dollars that we have allocated to
34 voice over IP which Mr. Crowder being the tech person
35 he is, probably recognizes the fact that it takes very
36 little equipment to convert the old system over to
37 voice over IP. So what they're spending a quarter of
38 a million dollars of, I have no idea. I have a little
39 bit of an inkling because I just saw seventy-five
40 hundred dollars being transferred, or being requested
41 to be transferred out of the IT department to shred
42 county documents. So it looks like the IT department
43 is one of those little cubby holes where money's
44 tucked away for other things, because we're definitely
45 not spending a quarter of a million dollars on voice-
46 over IP hardware. I would like to see the breakdown
47 on that. So I would like for you to strongly consider
48 that not to take this as a package deal and to look at
49 these things more individually because a quarter of a
50 million dollars for voice over IP is not money well

1 spent. Thank you.
2 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Anyone at
3 all? Hearing none, public hearing will be closed. We
4 have a motion?
5 CINDY WILSON: So moved.
6 KEN WATERS: Second.
7 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson. Second
8 by Mr. Waters. Any discussion?
9 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.
10 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.
11 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I want to be sure
12 first. Is this the ordinance that was supposed to
13 move x amount of dollars out of the operating and
14 capital budget of Anderson County to put on the roads?
15 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am.
16 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. Well, what did
17 I miss, because, I mean the gentleman talked about a
18 voice over IP in this. What's that about?
19 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am. That was in
20 there in our discussion we had earlier. Yes, ma'am.
21 It's in there.
22 GRACIE FLOYD: While I was sitting up
23 here? In the Finance Committee?
24 TOMMY DUNN: Workshop.
25 GRACIE FLOYD: In the finance workshop?
26 Now, I don't remember that. I don't remember that,
27 because from the onset, we talked about getting money
28 from that budget and we were going to do -- put the
29 money on roads and bridges because Mr. Burris -- Mr.
30 Burns know that I have been talking with him about
31 this and I was told that this money would be going on
32 the roads to -- in Anderson County, because my concern
33 was that how was that going to happen? Will we be
34 getting more money to put with this money and at the
35 beginning of the new fiscal year and I was told yes.
36 I never heard anything about no -- what was it? Voice
37 over IP. Mr. Burns, we never discussed that. I thank
38 you for that. Didn't know a thing about that. I'd
39 like to see the breakdown of that one, too. That
40 never came -- it might have come up in the financial
41 meeting, which I am not invited to. I can go if I
42 want to, but the air would be so hostile I decided not
43 to go. But I don't know anything about that one. You
44 have some information on it? Oh, you're on the
45 Financial Committee. Yeah. Okay. All right. Okay.
46 Whatever, Anderson County.
47 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Ms. Wilson?
48 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 For many, many years I asked questions regarding the
50 finances of the county and met with a great deal of

1 resistance and got very little information. And if
2 you were watching the money back then, you would
3 notice that at the end of every fiscal year there
4 would be millions of dollars sometimes transferred,
5 you know, sometimes even three or four months after
6 the close of the fiscal year. It didn't track the
7 budget. It was like money sloshing from one
8 compartment to another, it just -- we had no real
9 internal financial control and it appeared that we had
10 very little recognition of the issues in our external
11 audits.

12 But this that's being presented today, I have
13 to confess I know little about voice over IP, but the
14 other items, I understand we're actually putting more
15 money toward paving. This is the first year the
16 county's really been in a position to do that. And
17 I'll go over some of that later. But when this
18 Council came in, in '09, it was virtually a scorched
19 and salted earth with twenty-nine million dollars of
20 new debt that had been dumped on to you and I, the
21 taxpayers; all of us. There was even a failure to
22 budget a half million dollar debt service payment, so
23 obviously we were taken by surprise for that. It's
24 been a long arduous struggle, but the end result is
25 this county is doing really well with its financial
26 controls now, certainly relative to years past. Our
27 transparency is far greater. We're finally winning
28 many awards on transparency now. And we finally have
29 supplemental budgets, when something is out of kilter,
30 we make adjustments and we make them publicly and the
31 public has the ability to register input.

32 So hopefully everybody will recognize that
33 this is a dramatic improvement over what we're had
34 before. And I would request the speaker who
35 questioned the voice over IP, perhaps he could meet
36 with some of our people who have that expertise and if
37 there's an adjustment or some suggestions that might
38 make it better, that might be a very helpful
39 situation. Thank you. I'll support this.

40 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Crowder.

41 FRANCIS CROWDER: It's on. Hello.

42 Everybody's mike's going out. If you actually go to
43 the page in your agenda tonight, ordinance 2015-005,
44 it clearly outlines how the money that's going to be
45 transferred in this supplemental appropriation is
46 used. It's set forth into the material that we have.
47 And if you'll notice that it does have a priority for
48 funding and it even shows how much money each of the
49 seven districts will receive additionally.

50 In addition to that, you will see an item

1 called professional services, which is the additional
2 money to fund the voice over IP. You will recall that
3 we had a budget for funds available but when we got
4 the bid in, the bid exceeded what we had appropriated.
5 So there is clear transparent acknowledgment of how
6 the supplemental budget will be used contained in
7 tonight's agenda. Totally clear. Thank you.

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair?
9 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

10 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm looking at the
11 ordinance 2015-005, and I don't even see the voice-
12 over under the general fund operation -- or
13 appropriation; excuse me. I see the general fund
14 revenue. The appropriation. But I don't see the
15 voice over IP. Whatever it's called. He's showing me
16 something that I don't have. Mr. Burns -- Mr. Burns,
17 do you have a copy of this? Can you show me where the
18 voice over IP is listed in this? I beg your pardon?
19 Oh, Rita is here. Thank you.

20 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am. It's the
21 second line item under general fund appropriations.
22 It's entitled professional services.

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Second item under
24 what now? Okay. Professional services.

25 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

26 GRACIE FLOYD: Professional services.
27 That's the IP, I mean the voice over IP?

28 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am. That's the
29 title of the account from which it will be spent if
30 Council approves.

31 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, why didn't we put
32 just voice over IP? Why professional -- you know,
33 professional services to me is when we get someone to
34 come in, like an accountant to do our book, to offered
35 this service to us. This voice over IP, is that, is
36 that a machine? What does it do? What is it?

37 RITA DAVIS: We are engaging IT
38 professionals to come in and assist us in the
39 implementation of the voice over IP telephone system.
40 If Council approves.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: That's the telephone
42 system?

43 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: But we didn't put it down
45 for what it -- we just put professional services.
46 Okay. All right. Awards and stuff for open -- okay.
47 Thank you.

48 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

49 TOMMY DUNN: Anything else? I just want
50 to say, y'all correct me if I'm wrong, this and

1 everything on this thing was fully vetted at a
2 workshop council meeting when we had it -- not the
3 Finance -- we had a special budget workshop meeting
4 ---

5 FRANCIS CROWDER: Yes, sir.
6 GRACIE FLOYD: Did we ---
7 TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion
8 show of hands. All opposed. Show the motion carries
9 with Mr. Waters, Mr. Allen, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Cole, Mr.
10 Crowder and Ms. Wilson in favor. Ms. Floyd opposed.
11 GRACIE FLOYD: I didn't say I opposed.
12 TOMMY DUNN: I called for abstentions
13 and you threw your hand -- I mean I called for
14 opposed and you threw your hand up.
15 GRACIE FLOYD: But you didn't call for ---
16 TOMMY DUNN: I didn't because you
17 threw your hand up. Are you abstaining, Ms. Floyd?
18 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. I'm abstaining, Mr.
19 Dunn.
20 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd abstains.
21 GRACIE FLOYD: Good.
22 TOMMY DUNN: We'll take a five minute
23 break.

24 FRANCIS CROWDER: Thank you, sir.
25 **(RECESS FROM 7:50 PM TO 7:58 PM)**
26 TOMMY DUNN: We'll call the meeting back
27 to order.

28 Moving on to Item number 10 (a), number 2015-
29 007, first reading, ordinance authorizing the
30 execution and delivery of one or more incentive
31 agreements by and among Anderson County, South
32 Carolina and a company known to the county as PROJECT
33 OWL, and one or more existing or to-be-formed or
34 acquired subsidiaries, or affiliated or related
35 entities, as sponsor; to provide for a Fee in Lieu of
36 ad valorem taxes incentive; to provide for the
37 inclusion of the project in a multi-county business or
38 industrial park; to provide for special source revenue
39 credits; to provide for the addition of one or more
40 sponsor affiliates; and other related matters. Mr.
41 Burriss Nelson.

42 BURRISS NELSON: Mr. Chairman, members of
43 Council, thank you for this opportunity to present
44 this opportunity for jobs creation and capital
45 investment. This project, Project Owl, is a forty
46 year old international tier one automotive supplier.
47 This is a project that was brought to us by the South
48 Carolina Department of Commerce. It looks like the
49 project will run from June 2015 in construction to
50 June of 2016, bringing forty-nine new jobs with an

1 average hourly pay of fifteen dollars and twenty-six
2 cents an hour. An approximate annual payroll of one
3 million four hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars.
4 A total capital investment of one million -- eleven
5 million one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.
6 This is a offer of a fee-in-lieu of taxes six percent
7 assessment ratio, thirty year agreement with a ten
8 year extension. The first SSRC for the first four
9 years is ninety percent. Eighty percent for years
10 five through ten. Fifty percent for years eleven
11 through twenty. The first year property tax on the
12 property itself as it stands today paid out three
13 thousand nine hundred and fifty-three dollars. The
14 first year that the project will be in on the ground
15 in 2016, the taxes will apply to property only and
16 will pay four thousand eight hundred and seventy-five
17 dollars. However, succeeding years pay substantially
18 more. Thirty year agreement, the projected taxes
19 would be one million eight hundred and nine thousand.
20 The community impact for the first year, seven million
21 seven hundred and ten thousand. Twenty year impact is
22 fifty-one million one hundred and eighty thousand
23 dollars.

24 This information comes to Council as a
25 recommendation from staff and the Economic Development
26 Advisory board and we respectfully request you give
27 favorable consideration to this project.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Thanks. We have a motion?

29 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

30 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen, second Ms.

31 Wilson. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion
32 show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion
33 carries unanimously.

34 Moving on to Item (b) 2015-009, an ordinance
35 authorizing the sale of certain property in Alliance
36 Park in accordance with that certain agreement to
37 purchase and sale land ("purchase agreement") by and
38 between Anderson County, South Carolina, (the
39 "county") and a company known to the county as PROJECT
40 OWL.

41 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
42 members of Council. This is an ordinance that will be
43 selling the property that we had originally designated
44 as our spec building, and after Mr. Crowder's
45 continued requests about being sure that we got the
46 spec building sold before it was even constructed,
47 we've done so. This project will be taking the site
48 where the spec building would be located. Project
49 Owl.

50 CINDY WILSON: I'll make that motion.

1 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson.
2 FRANCIS CROWDER: I'll second.
3 TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Crowder. Any
4 discussion?
5 TOM ALLEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair?
6 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen.
7 TOM ALLEN: If I could, I'd just to re-
8 emphasize what Mr. Nelson said about the spec
9 building, because I had always kind of been a fan of
10 the virtual spec building although all the experts
11 tell me that doesn't work. But we did even better
12 than that this time. Didn't even put a building up,
13 just had a piece of property and it's being sold, so
14 congratulations on the spec building, is all I can
15 say. Way to go. Thanks, Burriss.
16 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you.
17 KEN WATERS: Mr. Chairman?
18 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Waters.
19 KEN WATERS: What else can you say,
20 except the fine job you guys are doing? It's a
21 pleasure to work with you. And you know there were a
22 lot of skeptical people about this, that it wouldn't
23 happen. And it did. So we can just look forward to
24 the next one. Appreciate all you do and look forward
25 to working with you.
26 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you.
27 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Any more
28 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
29 Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
30 unanimously. Thank you, Mr. Nelson.
31 Moving on now to item number ---
32 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you.
33 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. --- 10 (c),
34 2015-010, an ordinance amending Chapter 53 of the Code
35 of Ordinance, Anderson County, South Carolina so as to
36 add Article IV pertaining to the solicitation of funds
37 on roads and streets; and matters related thereto. I
38 put this in the form of a motion.
39 CINDY WILSON: Second.
40 TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Any
41 discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion
42 show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion
43 carries unanimously.
44 Moving on to item number 11(a), #2015-010, a
45 resolution expressing County consent to judicial
46 abandonment and closure of a portion of Wigfall Drive
47 designated as C-06-0090 and a portion of Furman Road
48 designated as C-06-0089; and other matters related
49 thereto. This will be a public hearing. Anyone
50 wishing to step forward to this and speak to this

1 matter, please do so now. State your name and
2 district and address the Chair. Anyone at all?
3 Hearing none, public hearing will be closed.

4 Mr. Hopkins.

5 HOLT HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman, I just want
6 to kind of real quickly make sure Council understands
7 where we're talking about. This is up near Exit 27,
8 Highway 81 and I-85. Here's an aerial photo of where
9 we're -- I mean a map of where we're talking about.
10 Exit 27 is right up in the top right corner here.
11 Wigfall -- and I'll show you a picture here in a
12 minute -- Wigfall is nothing but a dirt and gravel
13 road. There's one bridge on it that's probably at
14 least thirty or forty years old. There's a culvert
15 right at the beginning of this closure at the dotted
16 line that we put in about ten years ago. But other
17 than that, we've had to hold it together. And let me
18 just show you real quick what I mean by that. That
19 was taken about six or eight months ago before we put
20 any gravel on it. I mean, it's really literally
21 coming apart. This section -- the sections that we're
22 talking about closing are -- is nothing more than a
23 path basically. We do have significant right-of-way
24 on the sections that we're looking at closing because
25 we went to the Threatt family and not knowing what
26 might come of this, we thought there might be a
27 residential subdivision, so we asked them for a sixty-
28 six foot right-of-way. They gave it to us. That's
29 the only reason we have that much right-of-way here.
30 We're not proposing closing the ends on the far left
31 here. Those are houses at the far end on the left.
32 Furman Road, there is a house right inside where we're
33 planning on closing, but it is also owned by the
34 Threatts and will be vacant before -- within just a
35 few more weeks.

36 We have -- we've posted these two roads for
37 thirty days in accordance with our ordinance. We've
38 met the requirements of the state law abandonment, as
39 well as County Council's ordinance on the procedure.
40 The whole reason for this is, going back to the
41 property map, I think Mr. Burriss Nelson is doing all
42 he can to get an industry to locate on that Threatt
43 property, which the two roads kind of chop up the
44 property. So they're wanting one big large track of
45 property that they can promote to an industry. We see
46 no need to keep it open. I think the jobs would be
47 much better. So this request is actually coming from
48 us, County staff, with the purpose of an economic
49 development prospect. And with that, I'll answer any
50 questions you may have.

1 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone have any questions
2 or comments?
3 CINDY WILSON: Just a comment, maybe.
4 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.
5 CINDY WILSON: Actually those very
6 substandard roads are mostly along the more level land
7 or the ridges, which would be more desirable for
8 construction, so this would allow less cost for road
9 maintenance and it would answer a need particularly
10 for a special industry maybe looking at that area.
11 Thank you.
12 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Allen.
13 TOM ALLEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
14 I've driven that road with great trepidation wondering
15 if I was going to break an axle or something. But if
16 you go up Shackleburg, it kind of runs around
17 Brookstone Golf Course a little bit. And I noticed in
18 the write-up here, it was estimated it was like twenty
19 cars per day use that road. I won't doubt your
20 figures, but I would be surprised if twenty cars a
21 month use that road. And if they do, they probably
22 have to go in the shop the next day.
23 HOLT HOPKINS: We must have counted it
24 when the water company was going in there to check a
25 house.
26 TOM ALLEN: Must have, because it's
27 pretty grim. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?
29 We have a motion?
30 FRANCIS CROWDER: Make a motion.
31 KEN WATERS: Second.
32 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Crowder, second
33 by Mr. Waters. Any discussion? All in favor of the
34 motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show
35 the motion carries unanimously.
36 Moving on to 11(b) R2015-013, a resolution
37 authorizing the involvement of Anderson County in
38 Workforce Development activities including Oconee and
39 Pickens Counties for implementation of the Workplace
40 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. I'd like to
41 introduce WorkLink CEO here tonight, Mr. Trent Acker,
42 to answer any questions or any comments. Want to
43 appreciate him coming out tonight.
44 TRENT ACKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 Thank you for the consideration.
46 TOMMY DUNN: Do you have any comments
47 you'd like to make, Mr. Acker, before we move on?
48 TRENT ACKER: Just very briefly. Just
49 want to thank you, again, for consideration of the
50 resolution. And what this really does is allow us to

1 continue to work as we have to serve these three
2 counties as a workforce area. Thank you to the
3 leadership of Anderson County and your colleagues in
4 Pickens and Oconee County. We continue to serve, as
5 Mr. Pelissier pointed out earlier today, with a little
6 over a million and a half dollars in this planned year
7 to serve those that are unemployed through no fault of
8 their own, whether they're youth, dislocated workers
9 or otherwise find themselves in that position.

10 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. We -- anyone
11 have any questions for Mr. Acker? Have a motion?

12 FRANCIS CROWDER: I make a motion.

13 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Crowder. Second
14 Mr. Cole. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion
15 show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion
16 carries unanimously. Appreciate it, Mr. Acker, thank
17 you very much.

18 TRENT ACKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 TOMMY DUNN: Appreciate all y'all do.
20 Moving on to Item number 11(c), R2015-014, a
21 resolution authorizing Anderson County's legal counsel
22 to file the necessary legal documents requesting that
23 the appeal in the case of Anderson County versus Joey
24 R. Preston be dismissed and other matters related
25 thereto.

26 Ms. Floyd.

27 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
28 resolution reads:
29 Whereas, the initiation of Anderson County's
30 lawsuit against the former County Administrator Joey
31 R. Preston and its subsequent Appeal of the Circuit
32 Court's decision has fiscally affected Anderson County
33 government operations, the County's marketability for
34 positive economic stature and its ability to attract
35 newcomers to our County; and,
36 Whereas, the Appeal remains a divisive issue
37 which results in dissension among County officials and
38 its citizens; taxpayers that prefer to move Anderson
39 County forward in an effort to improve the current
40 economical and financial growth, both individually and
41 as a community; and,
42 Whereas, the County's Judiciary stated in its
43 order that the claims were more of a vendetta than a
44 legitimate matter and its legal interpretation
45 supports that opinion; and,
46 Whereas, the continued funding of this
47 litigation has correlated consequences, the cause and
48 effects has postponed various vital County projects
49 such as road improvements, building repairs and
50 maintenance; as well as hampered the County's ability

1 to adequately compensate its employees and retain the
2 County's workforce with tenured and experienced staff,
3 providing the level of services citizens and taxpayers
4 desire and deserve; and

5 Whereas, the litigation and/or appeal process
6 has cost Anderson County and its taxpayers an enormous
7 amount of money; the lawsuit to date has accumulated a
8 total cost to the County of \$3,096,993.34 -- let me
9 repeat that make sure I got it right -- \$3,096,993.34
10 and,

11 Whereas, Anderson County has paid in this
12 fiscal year alone, from July 1, 2014 until March 10,
13 2015, a total so far of \$88,064.33. At that pace, and
14 if Council continues to pursue the matter to year end,
15 which is June the 30th, that figure has the potential
16 to cost the County an additional \$38,985 and,

17 Whereas, Anderson County has depleted County
18 funds and spending as of March 20, 2015 of \$3,096 -- I
19 mean, \$3,096,993 of hard working taxpayers' dollars,
20 this amount rises daily by an estimate cost of \$348
21 per day in an effort to recover \$1.14 million; and

22 Whereas, the Appeal interferes and has played
23 a part in delaying needed projects due to lack of
24 necessary funding, which in some cases means reduced
25 services to our citizens and taxpayers; and

26 Whereas, the Appeal portrays a negative image
27 over Anderson County and its citizens throughout the
28 State, as it is widely known that Anderson County has
29 spent over 3 million dollars in an attempt to recover
30 \$1.14 million. At this point the litigation only
31 benefits the parties' legal counsel; and,

32 Whereas, the appeal has the potential to
33 impede the economic recruitment of our County as we
34 continue to fight over past issues; and,

35 Whereas, neither Anderson County Government
36 nor the people of Anderson County will benefit from
37 any potential Court decision or outcome; the
38 likelihood of any recovery even if the appeal were
39 successful would be a negative return on investment;
40 and,

41 Whereas the appeal process continues to
42 exhaust the County's funds and additional time spent
43 on this case would be fruitless; and,

44 Whereas, Anderson County Council should make
45 a conscious effort to move forward with the goals and
46 objectives that County Council developed at the
47 Council retreat, establishing its strategic growth and
48 long range plans as well as the vision to spotlight
49 Anderson County and its tremendous value to the
50 Upstate and to the State of South Carolina.

1 We have -- we don't read about it in the
2 newspaper. But if we did, do you think we would have
3 many companies coming in? This has the potential of
4 stopping the growth of Anderson County because these
5 people are going to think if they're going to go after
6 -- if they're going to spend three million to go after
7 one million, is this the place we want to be?

8 Mr. Chairman, I put my resolution in the form
9 of a motion.

10 TOMMY DUNN: We have a motion. Do we
11 have a second?

12 MITCHELL COLE: Second.

13 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Cole. Any discussion?

14 CINDY WILSON: May I?

15 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

16 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 If you read the resolution, it doesn't quite match
18 what has taken place currently in the life of our
19 county. Right now we understand that Anderson County
20 is ranked seventh in the United States for economic
21 development. Look at tonight's agenda and you heard
22 some of the projects. Every census continues to
23 reveal population increases with new residents. When
24 the County Council of '09 took their seats in January,
25 we walked into what amounts to a scorched and salted
26 earth; state of finances in our county. The outgoing
27 County Council had dumped approximately twenty-nine
28 million dollars of new debt, new bond debt without --
29 within the previous twelve months to their leaving.
30 They even failed to budget a half million dollar debt
31 service payment that was due in April of '09. Tax
32 revenues were down, foreclosures were up, the great
33 recession was on. Lawsuits were filed against us to
34 prevent inquiries, audits and investigations. We
35 found that the previous administrator had shackled us
36 to millions of dollars of new consulting contracts,
37 including multiple lobbyists, one million dollars plus
38 or minus annually for attorneys. Now it's around four
39 to five hundred thousand a year, including the current
40 item referred to in the resolution. There were
41 twenty-five percent salaries increases given to pet
42 employees as that group left the door. Consulting
43 contracts to individuals of questionable
44 qualifications were given even to Ron Wilson's
45 daughter from Spartanburg. It appears his and the
46 former administrator's quid pro quo arrangements began
47 within two months of his arrival on council in '07.
48 All the issues that Wilson had campaigned against
49 suddenly, mysteriously, he was for.

50 Another issue was our enterprise funds,

1 especially sewer, were deep in the red and millions of
2 dollars of transfers were required at the end of each
3 year. From mid '04 till the new council moved in on
4 '09 there was little economic development in the midst
5 of the boom. South Carolina Department of Commerce
6 indicated to us in a visit to Columbia in September of
7 '09, in the middle of the recession by then, that they
8 had written Anderson County off for business. A major
9 industrial contact told me the same. Read the Daniel
10 Report if you want more details as to how some of that
11 came about. It's available at the library or you can
12 pick one up here at the Council offices.

13 With this backdrop, consider why your local
14 newspaper, the daily paper, failed to demand that
15 their former publisher, Fred Foster, Cordes Seabrook,
16 convicted felon Eric Bradshaw, and the Monteparas
17 dropped their lawsuit against the county. They lost
18 in the circuit court and they lost before the South
19 Carolina Supreme Court. Why didn't you say stop then?
20 The Michael Cunningham case lost, I believe, at the
21 local level and it's at appeal level. Why didn't you
22 admonish him to stop? It's his right to go to court
23 just as it is ours. Curiously, can you explain why
24 Beattie Ashmore, the court appointed receiver in the
25 Ron Wilson ponzi scheme is the same attorney Mr.
26 Preston hired to sue me. Is he going easy on Mr.
27 Preston in light of that?

28 Consider this, failing to win on appeal in
29 our current challenge with the former administrator
30 sets bad precedence for the future of the council
31 administrator form of government under the state
32 enabling act. It would encourage rogue administrators
33 to hire themselves mistresses at public expense and
34 then sue any council member who would question
35 expenditures and policies; to render them unable to
36 vote and to represent their constituents. Remember
37 public money and resources were used by the former
38 administrator to sue me and intimidate a lot of
39 people. He even filed ethics complaints against me,
40 or had friends to do it for him. He even arranged, at
41 public expense, a political action committee, called
42 the Anderson County Taxpayers Association to be formed
43 with my opponent in that election to be named as
44 agent. I think about fifteen thousand dollars of your
45 money was spent on that. Is that legal?

46 If you go point by point on this resolution
47 you will find that this county and its people have
48 moved way beyond this resolution's allegations. In
49 fact, with our ranking in the nation and all the many
50 wonderful things that companies and business people

1 have to say about our county, and that includes all of
2 you, we wouldn't be so well known and so well
3 perceived if it weren't for our good citizens and the
4 teamwork we have now.

5 Debt service is paid down, salary
6 increases are already in place, not to mention that
7 our insurance and benefits packages for our employees
8 are probably among the best in the state. And since
9 funding for roads dropped dramatically in 2003 on, we
10 now -- as you just heard in the supplemental budget,
11 additional funds are going to that. We now have more
12 money for roads and bridges.

13 So you also have to ask about the timing of
14 this resolution, when the former administrator was
15 required to present to court, I guess in Greenville,
16 why he cannot pay back the ponzi money that he took.
17 The last offered settlement to this county, before the
18 last vote, was in the neighborhood of seven, eight
19 hundred thousand dollars. Would that money be used to
20 go pay off his debt, using public money again to pay
21 off something else? Or you willing to do that? I'm
22 not. Thank you.

23 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?
24 Mr. Allen.

25 **(Applause)**

26 TOMMY DUNN: Hold it down.

27 TOM ALLEN: I thought that applause was
28 for me because I was going to say something. Okay.

29 Just a couple of things here. We've heard a
30 lot up here tonight and a lot of what's been stated is
31 true. But I will say that five years ago when this
32 case began, I voted against it. I caught a good bit
33 of grief for that. I was not judging Mr. Preston. I
34 was not voting for or against him. That's up to the
35 court to do that. I was judging the case on the
36 charges made and I felt the charges placed against
37 him, the eleven counts, were very weak and were not
38 sufficient to overturn what occurred on November 18th,
39 2008. I just didn't feel it would do it. That's why
40 I voted against it. To date it has cost the county
41 just over three million dollars to pursue it. Not
42 pursuing this case would have saved us three million
43 dollars. That, as was stated, we could have used on
44 roads, building repairs, whatever.

45 But we also have to consider that several
46 people have mentioned tonight the ponzi scheme, the
47 moral turpitude, etcetera. Those cannot be
48 adjudicated by the Appeals Court. That's not part of
49 the charges. The only thing the Appeals Court can
50 look at is the eleven counts against Mr. Preston that

1 were placed there during the court back in November of
2 2013. So all they can do is review what Judge Couch
3 said. Forget ponzi scheme; there's no evidence of
4 that at this point and time. Forget moral turpitude.
5 That's over and done with. That's not part of this
6 case. So you may not like it, but it's not going to
7 be reviewed by the Appellate Court.

8 However, to drop the suit right now would be,
9 in my opinion, detrimental to the county. And here's
10 why. Dropping would now allow Mr. Preston's attorneys
11 to go back to Judge Couch and say, okay, we want the
12 legal fees now. Judge Couch has left that door open.
13 All right. And I have heard numbers between seven
14 hundred and seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars.
15 Don't ask me where those numbers came from. I've
16 heard them from various sources that that might be
17 what they ask for for legal fees. At that point, we
18 would, I believe, have little or no recourse at that
19 time because we have agreed to drop the case. That's
20 not beneficial to Anderson County. I really don't
21 want to pay out another seven hundred and fifty
22 thousand dollars. That's not to our benefit.

23 Rumors, yeah, as I said, that number of seven
24 hundred and fifty thousand dollars is rumor, but the
25 judge has left that door open for his attorneys to go
26 in and ask for it and you can bet they're going to
27 back and ask for legal fees.

28 By dropping the case now, too, this could
29 well create something else that would happen. Mr.
30 Preston's attorneys could then turn around and file a
31 wrongful lawsuit against the county. What's to stop
32 them from doing that? What's to stop them from filing
33 suits against us individually perhaps? That's not a
34 good thing either.

35 So here we go through another legal struggle
36 if that was to happen. Just more money. More money.
37 There's also the specter of a -- well, the ponzi
38 scheme that's looming out there on the horizon.

39 TOMMY DUNN: One minute.

40 TOM ALLEN: Want to extent?

41 TOMMY DUNN: Yeah, make a motion to
42 extend five minutes?

43 TOM ALLEN: Second.

44 FRANCIS CROWDER: Second.

45 TOMMY DUNN: Second. All in favor.

46 Show the motion carries unanimously.

47 Moving on, Mr. Allen.

48 TOM ALLEN: And I'm just about finished
49 here. There's also the specter of the ponzi scheme
50 looming over all of this. And we don't know what's

1 going to happen with that. We don't know how it's
2 going to affect this case right now. There's just too
3 many things hanging out there that are questionable.
4 So at this time, and for the above reasons that I just
5 gave you, I can't vote to simply drop the case and
6 possibly cause the county to have to pay high legal
7 fees and then maybe face a wrongful lawsuit on top of
8 that that could be filed against the county. There
9 will have to be a better way to do this.

10 So that's all I have to say about it, but
11 just keep in mind on the legal aspect, too, very,
12 very, very seldom will a court ever overturn the vote
13 of a legal authorized body, such as a council, unless
14 it has been proven that there's actual hard core
15 criminal activity of some sort that went on. Very
16 difficult to do that.

17 And that's all I have, Mr. Chair.

18 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else
19 have anything that hasn't spoke yet? Anything at all?

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

21 TOMMY DUNN: Go ahead.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: You may -- your points are
23 well taken. But if it continues, it's going to happen
24 anyway. It's going to happen anyway. The points that
25 you brought up, that he will probably ask us for -- to
26 pay his legal fees, yeah. Because if this should ever
27 end, if this should ever end, it would have cost us a
28 lot of money. Maybe four or five million dollars to
29 get one million dollars back. If he -- if we take
30 this, it's going to go from the Appellate Court, when
31 we lose, to the Supreme Court. And then from the
32 Supreme Court, where? If we, if we win, he's going to
33 take us right back to court; he's going to start at
34 the Appellate Court again to appeal that. So we're
35 going to have appeal for appeal, no matter who wins or
36 who loses. And you will be paying -- taxpayers, we
37 will be paying.

38 Now, all I did was to put the resolution up.
39 That's all I did. I had enough nerve to do it.
40 Nobody asked me to do it. I did it because it needed
41 to be done. Got zillions of phone calls today from
42 people who agreed. Got one from a person who didn't.
43 But it's going to go on, folks, and it's going to go
44 on and on and on. All right? But Gracie Floyd will
45 rest comfortably and peaceful. I tried.

46 TOMMY DUNN: At this time, I'd like to
47 -- timing of this resolution is not good. There are
48 on going matters that need to be considered by Council
49 before consideration of a resolution of this nature.
50 These include a federal district court has issued a

1 order to show cause to Mr. Preston in the Ron Wilson
2 Atlantic Bullion and Coin Incorporated case. Court's
3 order require Mr. Preston to advise the court by March
4 17, 2015, which is today, all written documentation
5 and evidence as to why Mr. Preston should not be
6 required to repay the money he acquired from illegal
7 ponzi schemes to the court appointed receiver. We
8 have not yet access to or reviewed any of these
9 materials that Mr. Preston may have filed in this
10 case. Court of Appeals has requested dates that
11 attorneys are available in May for a hearing in
12 Anderson County versus Preston appeal. Have not been
13 advised as to a date in May in the Court of Appeals or
14 ?? the case. Resolution would require Anderson County
15 to withdraw its appeal in Anderson County versus
16 Preston. This would likely result in Mr. Preston
17 filing a petition for legal fees in Circuit Court that
18 would probably be heard by Judge Couch. To further
19 complicate the legal fee issue, Mr. Preston has filed
20 a separate lawsuit in Richland County seeking legal
21 fees. Therefore, taking action to withdraw the appeal
22 will not end this matter as is suggested by this
23 resolution and will likely result in a large award of
24 legal fees to Mr. Preston Anderson County would have
25 to pay.

26 For all the reasons I have clearly stated, I
27 move that this resolution be postponed indefinitely.
28 I put that in the form of a motion.

29 FRANCIS CROWDER: I second.

30 TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Crowder. All in
31 favor of the motion -- yeah. Yes, sir.

32 MITCHELL COLE: I got a lot of discourse
33 out there earlier. Just so you know my stance, my
34 proposition would be to negotiate and come up with an
35 agreement that is agreeable to both parties. You
36 know, I, for one, don't think we should pay Mr.
37 Preston an additional seven hundred and fifty thousand
38 dollars; million dollars. But there is a point out
39 there where it would be a wise business decision to
40 stop this. And that's just my comment.

41 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Cole.

42 All in favor of the motion show of hands.
43 All opposed. Show the motion carries with Mr. Waters,
44 Mr. Allen, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Crowder, and Ms. Wilson in
45 favor. Mr. Cole and Ms. Floyd opposes.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chairman, may I

47 ---

48 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to Item ---

49 **APPLAUSE**

50 TOMMY DUNN: Hold it down, please.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman?
2 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am.
3 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I want to thank
4 those of you who came up tonight and spoke on behalf
5 of this. You understand. You really understand.
6 Those, my colleagues who voted against it, as I said
7 earlier, I expected it. Thank you.
8 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to Item 11(d),
9 R2015-015, a resolution identifying a project to
10 satisfy the requirements of title 12, chapter 44 of
11 the Code of Laws of South Carolina so as to allow
12 investment expenditures incurred by a company known to
13 the County as PROJECT OWL, its affiliates and related
14 entities and to qualify as expenditures eligible for a
15 Fee-in-Lieu of ad valorem taxes arrangement with
16 Anderson County, South Carolina; to provide for
17 special source revenue credits; to enter into any
18 other necessary agreements with the company to effect
19 the intent of this resolution. Mr. Burriss Nelson.
20 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
21 members of Council. This is a continuation of Project
22 Owl and the inducement resolution that kicks it off
23 and defines the agreements that we'll have with them
24 in the incentive package and the purchase agreement.
25 This is for forty-nine jobs, average pay of -- annual
26 payroll of one point ??? dollars a year.
27 TOMMY DUNN: We have a motion on the
28 floor.
29 CINDY WILSON: So moved.
30 FRANCIS CROWDER: Make a motion.
31 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Crowder and
32 second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion or comments,
33 questions for Mr. Burriss Nelson? All in favor of the
34 motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the
35 motion carries unanimously. Thank you, Mr. Nelson.
36 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you for your support.
37 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to Item number
38 12, Report from the Finance Committee. Chairman
39 Crowder.
40 FRANCIS CROWDER: All right. Thank you,
41 Chairman.
42 The Finance Committee met on March the 5th,
43 2015 and heard various items that was submitted by our
44 County Administrator. The first item is a full depth
45 patch and single treatment bid to the county that was
46 made -- there somebody in particular going to handle
47 that, or you want me just to handle it?
48 TOMMY DUNN: Just go ahead and handle
49 it, Mr. Crowder.
50 FRANCIS CROWDER: Me go ahead and handle it?

1 All right, sir.

2 Just a second, let me turn the page. I got
3 it. All right. We had two bids; one bid for two
4 million five hundred thousand dollars, the other one
5 for two point seven million dollars. The purchasing
6 department recommends that we award the contract with
7 F&R Asphalt for two point five nine one million
8 dollars. Is that correct, Mr. Carroll?

9 ROBERT CARROLL: Yes, sir.

10 FRANCIS CROWDER: All right. And that -- the
11 Finance Committee makes a recommendation that we
12 accept that bid.

13 TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion from the
14 Finance Committee. Doesn't need a second coming from
15 the Finance Committee. Any discussion? All in favor
16 of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show
17 the motion carries unanimously.

18 Moving on.

19 FRANCIS CROWDER: All right. The second one
20 was a bid for the Piedmont paving project. We
21 received four bids on that project. They ranged from
22 -- we had Ashmore Brothers and others. The apparent
23 successful bidder is Venesky Asphalt Company of
24 Easley, South Carolina in the amount of five hundred
25 and eighty thousand six hundred and fifty-three
26 dollars and thirty cents. Finance Committee
27 recommends that project.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Coming from Finance, again
29 doesn't need a second. Are there any discussion?

30 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, Ms. Floyd.

32 GRACIE FLOYD: Piedmont paving project,
33 what is the project that Piedmont's getting ready to
34 do for that amount of money?

35 RUSTY BURNS: Mr. Hopkins?

36 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

37 HOLT HOPKINS: They had two utility
38 contractors in there for the past two years tearing up
39 the roads, putting in new sewer lines, new water
40 lines. Part of the county's policy is that we charge
41 a fee for anybody that's cutting in the roads. Well,
42 those utility companies paid the county over five
43 hundred thousand dollars for the right to put their
44 lines in the county roads. We set that money aside
45 and we're using that money which they gave us, plus a
46 little bit of C fund money to re-pave those roads now
47 that the project is completely finished. The way it
48 looks right now, there's trenches everywhere. They've
49 been patched back, but it's not a nice smooth riding
50 surface. This -- their money and a little bit of C

1 fund money will put that riding surface back on all
2 these roads.

3 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? All in favor
4 of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign.
5 Show the motion carries unanimously.

6 Moving on, Mr. Chairman.

7 FRANCIS CROWDER: All right. The grant is
8 actually a pass-through grant from Senator O'Dell that
9 passes twenty-five thousand dollars to Anderson County
10 for dispersal to the cities within the county. Is
11 that not correct, Mr. Burns? All right. So this is
12 actually no money to us, but is a pass through from
13 Senator O'Dell to municipalities in the county for
14 parks, recreation, tourism. Finance Committee
15 recommends that.

16 TOMMY DUNN: Coming from the Finance
17 Committee doesn't need a second again. Are there any
18 discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion
19 show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the
20 motion carries unanimously.

21 Moving on, Mr. Chairman.

22 FRANCIS CROWDER: All right. The next item
23 is actually a group of transfers and so that I won't
24 be laborious, I would suggest that you read these.
25 Finance Committee recommends approval for those. And
26 so if you have any questions, we'll be glad to
27 entertain those.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Give us a few minutes to
29 look over them and if anybody's got any questions or
30 comments, we'll try to get them answered. Hearing
31 any? All in favor of the motion of transfers coming
32 from Finance Committee show of hands. All opposed
33 like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

34 Moving on, Mr. Chairman.

35 FRANCIS CROWDER: All right. At this time,
36 we went into executive session to discuss personnel
37 matters. Mr. Burns.

38 TOMMY DUNN: We need to go into
39 executive session tonight?

40 RUSTY BURNS: No, sir, we do not. No
41 action was taken, no action was recommended.

42 TOMMY DUNN: Okay.

43 FRANCIS CROWDER: Thank you. Just wanted to
44 make sure.

45 Now moving on to the agenda for the March
46 12th meeting. At that meeting we actually had some
47 grants from South Carolina DHEC. Mr. Burns, would you
48 like to go into that one?

49 RUSTY BURNS: Rita.

50 RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir. Mr. Crowder,

1 this is from DHEC. It's fifty-five thousand. It's a
2 continuation from Mr. Scott Stoller, EMS. He will be
3 buying kits basically in order to ensure that he is
4 prepared in case of a disaster or, you know, in case
5 of an emergency.

6 FRANCIS CROWDER: All right. Finance
7 Committee recommended consideration of this item and
8 moving it to Council.

9 TOMMY DUNN: Have a form of a motion
10 come from Finance Committee again doesn't need a
11 second. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion
12 show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the
13 motion carries.

14 Moving on.

15 FRANCIS CROWDER: Yes, sir, the next item was
16 actually procurement of three pieces of high tech
17 equipment from using State Homeland Security money for
18 the haz-mat team. This is to buy a -- well, a
19 portable spectroscope, a portable mass spectrometer,
20 and these items are very costly, but these are now
21 portable devices that the haz-mat team can go out and
22 look at potential mass destruction incidents that
23 might evolve in the county. Finance Committee
24 reviewed this and makes recommendation for the
25 purchase of these items. It's money that requires no
26 local match.

27 TOMMY DUNN: Any discussion? All in
28 favor of the motion from the Finance Committee show of
29 hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion
30 carries unanimously.

31 Moving on, Mr. Chairman.

32 FRANCIS CROWDER: All right. The next item
33 actually is not for discussion tonight, but it has
34 included the page in your agenda package for you to be
35 able to review individually in preparation for the
36 upcoming budget sessions. They range everywhere from
37 the potential of giving raises, the mandate for us to
38 increase the cost of health insurance, mandates to
39 increase the matching funds required by the county,
40 for you to begin to realize the fact that we've
41 approved approximately ?? million -- thousand dollars
42 to give raises last year and those raises have to be
43 carried forward into the future year. And I could go
44 on and on, but there's a full page list of
45 approximately forty, fifty items. And this is just
46 for your information.

47 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir. We appreciate
48 that.

49 Moving on to Item (c), airport transfers.

50 FRANCIS CROWDER: All right. Airport

1 transfer is that there's a type of aircraft that
2 Anderson County would like to be engaged called a
3 Cessna Caravan. It's a particular type of a Cessna
4 aircraft that's used by businesses that move
5 materials, like UPS and what have you, from low
6 density or low utilization areas such as maybe
7 Anderson to places like Atlanta. And those particular
8 aircraft require specialized maintenance and upkeep in
9 order to meet FAA specifications.

10 Our Anderson Airport Manager and Mr. Burns
11 and others have been doing due diligence to talk with
12 a company who would be interested in having that
13 maintenance done at our local airport. In order to do
14 that, you'll notice in your packet, that we have to
15 buy one expensive piece of equipment called a
16 borescope. And secondly we would have to send our --
17 one of our mechanics off to receive some specialized
18 interest -- well, training in that particular
19 equipment. Finance Committee reviewed it after
20 discussion with Mr. Burns and the airport manager, and
21 so we hope that you will consider this.

22 TOMMY DUNN: Appreciate that, Mr.
23 Crowder. Coming from Finance Committee, again,
24 doesn't need a second. Any discussion? All in favor
25 of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign.
26 Show the motion carries unanimously.

27 FRANCIS CROWDER: Mr. Chairman, that
28 concludes the reports in record speed time.

29 TOMMY DUNN: Appreciate it, Mr.
30 Chairman. Thank you very much.

31 Moving on to Item number 14, report from the
32 Airport Adhoc Committee meeting. Chairman Allen.

33 TOM ALLEN: All right. Thank you, sir.
34 I have a five hundred page report here to go over ---

35 TOMMY DUNN: If you would, you want to
36 introduce the Airport Manager?

37 TOM ALLEN: Oh, Justin, would you want
38 to -- the Airport Manager, our new Airport Manager is
39 here tonight. Justin, you want to just stand up and
40 take a bow. And he's going to be running the airport
41 for us. So after hearing the meeting tonight he may
42 change his mind; I don't know. But we wish you all
43 the success.

44 All right. We had an Airport Adhoc Committee
45 meeting last Friday, the 13th. Great day to have a
46 meeting on. But the Adhoc Committee consists of
47 myself, Mr. Waters, and Mr. Cole. And we met with
48 members of the airport committee to discuss a couple
49 of things. One was either renovation of the current
50 terminal or perhaps construction of a new terminal,

1 and also to discuss hangar rates out there and find
2 out what we might need to do to keep the hangars full.
3 As we went through this discussion, let me
4 get back to where I was here, renovation of the
5 building out there was estimated it would cost
6 somewhere around five hundred thousand dollars. Now
7 of that, it's possible to get around a hundred
8 thousand dollar grant from the South Carolina Airport
9 Commission. But after discussions, it was felt that a
10 five hundred dollar renovation -- or five hundred
11 thousand dollar renovation would really have little
12 effect on the overall appearance and the amenities
13 available at the airport, at the terminal. That's
14 because a lot of the money would be used for such
15 thing as heating, air conditioning, ventilation,
16 electrical and structural repair. So the building
17 would look essentially the same after the money had
18 been spent as it did before. A lot of the money would
19 -- okay, I just hit that. I'm having trouble reading
20 my handwriting here.

21 Okay. Moving on, we discussed the aspect of
22 a new terminal at this point, and it could be built
23 for around two million dollars with a five hundred
24 thousand dollar grant coming in from the FAA. The
25 committee agreed this would be the best route to take
26 in all likelihood. It was estimated that if all went
27 well, this would be a five year plan to do all of this
28 and here's why. The first step would be to get
29 architectural drawings for the new facility. These
30 are necessary before we could apply for any kind of a
31 grant from the FAA. We've got to have a set of plans.
32 And then, after we got into that, we would have to
33 wait in line for that grant because there's other
34 people ahead of us. We don't know how long it might
35 take to get that grant, if we could get it; it might
36 take a couple, three years to actually become number
37 one on the list. But with a drawing, we'd like to
38 also visit local industries in the area and we'd like
39 to try and generate enthusiasm and hopefully monetary
40 support from the major industries in the area to help
41 us offset the rest of the cost for a new terminal. So
42 that would take some time to do.

43 The corporate donors would then be allowed to
44 display their products in the terminal as is done at a
45 lot of larger airports. The initial design drawings
46 would cost, I don't know, I've heard estimates every
47 place from thirty thousand to fifty thousand dollars
48 for initial designs, but we need to nail that number
49 down just a little bit better. And what we're
50 currently waiting on right now, we need to get a

1 letter in writing from the full airport committee
2 stating that this is what they would like to do; they
3 would like to pursue a new terminal. Once we get that
4 letter, we'll bring that before Council for discussion
5 to see what they want to do with it and see what route
6 we might be able to take in the next budget year to
7 come up with money for the architectural drawings.

8 So what we discussed there, there's not going
9 to be a new terminal out there tomorrow. This is
10 going to be at least a five year plan, and by that
11 time, I think we're really going to need it. So we're
12 looking five years down the road.

13 The final aspect of this was the hangar
14 situation out there. We do have some vacant hangars
15 and we thought why are they vacant? Why can't we get
16 them filled up. And it's turned out it's actually --
17 it's not any problem that we created. Our rates are
18 right in line with everybody else. And we think
19 what's happened there is, one, we've had a bad economy
20 the past several years and a lot of people gave up
21 flying, which is an expensive hobby. We also have a
22 lot of older folks that have quit flying. So we think
23 that explains why we've got some empty terminals out
24 there. And we hope that once this economy gets
25 rolling again here, that we'll be able to fill those
26 hangers up. And the airport committee was very
27 satisfied and so was our Adhoc Committee with the
28 current rates that are being charged and we don't
29 think we need to adjust those any. So the big plan
30 will be to get a letter in here from the airport
31 committee, let Council take a look at it and we'll
32 make a decision at that time about coming up with
33 dollars for architectural plans. And that's all I
34 have, Mr. Chairman.

35 KEN WATERS: Could I have one other
36 thing? One other thing, that kind of sounds scary,
37 just to talk about building a new terminal. We did
38 talk about some ways to attract businesses that -- or
39 some customers that are not in this area. And there
40 is information to back this up of where the people
41 live that own planes. And we even have some of the
42 information that shows in other counties. So it's not
43 like we're looking at building a terminal just to be
44 building one. We're actually looking at attracting
45 some customers to support that so we wouldn't be just
46 building it just so we could say we have one. We
47 would actually be paying for it with paying customers
48 in that new type of business. Thank you, sir.

49 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Waters.
50 Moving on to Item number 15, various boards

1 and commissions. Mr. Waters, you have any? Boards
2 or commissions appointments. Okay. Mr. Allen?
3 TOM ALLEN: Nothing.
4 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd?
5 GRACIE FLOYD: I don't have any.
6 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Cole?
7 MITCHELL COLE: Yes, sir, I have three
8 tonight. Mr. Shawn McGee to the Economic Advisory
9 Board. Mr. Bill Boatwright to the Anderson County
10 Citizens Advisory Zoning Board. And Mr. Blake Maynard
11 to the Accommodations Board.
12 TOMMY DUNN: Put that in the form of a
13 motion. We have a second?
14 KEN WATERS: Second.
15 TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Any
16 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
17 All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
18 unanimously. Anything else, Mr. Cole? Thank you.
19 Mr. Crowder?
20 FRANCIS CROWDER: Yes, Chairman, I have one.
21 Mrs. -- well, Dr. Beth Harris to the Anderson County
22 Museum Advisory Committee. I recommend that she be
23 considered to be on this board. Just as a sideline,
24 while Mrs. Harris can stand on her own, she is the
25 wife of Butch Harris who is the ex-Timken plant
26 manager out here and also on the Tri-County Tech
27 Foundation board as its chairman. And so I make that
28 motion, sir.
29 TOMMY DUNN: Have a second? Second Ms.
30 Wilson. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion
31 show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the
32 motion carries unanimously. Anything else, Mr.
33 Crowder?
34 FRANCIS CROWDER: No, thank you, that's all,
35 Chairman. Thank you so much.
36 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson? District 5 has
37 one. Offer James Cooley's name to the Broadway Lake
38 Advisory Committee. Put that in the form of a motion.
39 FRANCIS CROWDER: Second.
40 TOMMY DUNN: Any discussion? All in
41 favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like
42 sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
43 Now we'll be moving on to Item number 16,
44 requests by council members. And before we start, I'd
45 just like to make a -- hope everyone -- if you got any
46 questions about the one that the Garner Hamlet True
47 Grip Club. That is, I had a friend to ask -- my
48 understand there's about twenty-five to thirty
49 veterans down at the Campbell Nursing Home. When they
50 get through with their check every month, some of

1 them's got thirty or less then thirty dollars a month
2 to get by if they need a pair of bedroom shoes or coat
3 or any kind of toiletries or anything. And this fund
4 will be disbursed to give to those vets that need it.
5 Just say that.

6 FRANCIS CROWDER: So, where's that fund at,
7 Chairman?

8 TOMMY DUNN: Right here, it's in the
9 Richard Campbell.

10 FRANCIS CROWDER: Oh, Richard Campbell.
11 TOMMY DUNN: Going to Hamlet True Grip
12 Club.

13 FRANCIS CROWDER: I gotcha. Got that. Thank
14 you.

15 TOMMY DUNN: So hearing that, we'll
16 start with Mr. Waters again. Mr. Waters, you got
17 anything?

18 KEN WATERS: Yes, I have two. I'd like
19 to appropriate five hundred dollars to that fund from
20 District 6's recreation account. And can I do both of
21 them at the same time?

22 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir.

23 KEN WATERS: Okay. And then I'd also
24 like to appropriate a hundred dollars to the Outdoor
25 Dream Foundation. And I bring that in the form of a
26 motion.

27 TOM ALLEN: Second.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Any discussion? All in
29 favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like
30 sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. Anything
31 else, Mr. Waters? That it? Mr. Allen?

32 TOM ALLEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I have two
33 and I'd like to do them together. I'm running very,
34 very short on cash right now, so it's kind of paltry
35 sums, but I'd like to do a hundred dollars to the
36 Clemson Cooperative Extension Service for their 4-H
37 activities. And I'd like to do a hundred and fifty to
38 the Richard Campbell Nursing Home to the True Grip.

39 TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Any
40 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
41 All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
42 unanimously. Anything else?

43 TOM ALLEN: That's all.

44 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd?

45 GRACIE FLOYD: I don't have any tonight.

46 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Cole?

47 MITCHELL COLE: None tonight, Mr. Chairman.

48 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Crowder?

49 FRANCIS CROWDER: I have two, Chairman, if
50 you please, can we do them both together?

1 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir.
2 FRANCIS CROWDER: I'd like to recommend two
3 hundred dollars to the Clemson Co-op Extension program
4 and five hundred dollars for the veterans nursing home
5 fund.
6 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Have a second
7 Ms. Wilson. Any further discussion? All in favor of
8 the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign.
9 Show the motion carries unanimously. Mr. Crowder?
10 FRANCIS CROWDER: No. Thank you, sir,
11 appreciate it.
12 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson?
13 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 This one is not in the backup, but it's a regular need
15 and that's the Free Clinic. And I would propose to
16 appropriate the remainder of District 7's meager
17 remaining funds to the Free Clinic in Honea Path. I
18 think it's around four hundred and twenty-three
19 dollars left. And I want to point out that generally
20 District 7 appropriates funds for the Clemson Co-
21 operative Service but that will be after the new
22 fiscal year and also the Richard Campbell Garner
23 Hamlet fund.
24 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson. We
25 have a second?
26 TOM ALLEN: Second.
27 TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Allen. Any
28 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
29 All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
30 unanimously.
31 TOMMY DUNN: Out of District 5's
32 recreation account I'd like to appropriate three
33 thousand dollars to Clemson Extension Service for the
34 livestock show and five hundred dollars to the Garnet
35 Hamlet for the Richard Campbell thing.
36 TOM ALLEN: Second.
37 TOMMY DUNN: Any discussion? All in
38 favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like
39 sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. Thank
40 y'all very much.
41 Moving on to Administrator's report.
42 RUSTY BURNS: Nothing at this time, Mr.
43 Chairman.
44 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on. Requests, I
45 mean, I'm sorry, Citizens Comments. As Mr. Harmon
46 calls your name, please, again you have three minutes.
47 Address the Chair, state your name and district.
48 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, there are six
49 citizens signed up. Frank Pressly.
50 FRANK PRESSLY: Thank you. Frank Pressly,

1 District 2. I'm glad to see some more thought has
2 gone into this issue about the Joey Preston issue.
3 Thinking heads, you know, will prevail. If it's going
4 to be a negotiation, he needs to give up something.
5 We can't just throw our hands up and say, okay, we
6 give in, just give it to us, whatever you're going to
7 do to us. I mean, part of negotiation is him giving
8 up something for us not pursuing it any further.

9 And, no, the Appeals Court can't rule on all
10 those issues that Mr. Allen mentioned. However, we
11 know all those issues and time has told us what all
12 went on back then and we know that he was not entitled
13 to three times what his contract called for. If we're
14 going to negotiate with him, we need to go back ????
15 what your contract called for is what you need to get,
16 not this bloated agreement that you passed through us.

17 Now at the beginning I pointed out one of
18 these transfers, I mis-identified it as 2(d); it's
19 actually 12(d). And that transfer was for the paying
20 for the shredding of forms and documents from the
21 treasurer and auditor's office. Now it slipped
22 through tonight and y'all approved it. Now, I'm -- in
23 the future the argument could be made if any
24 litigation is brought against any one of you, the
25 argument could well be made that by destroying these
26 documents you played a part in short circuiting
27 anybody's ability to bring the truth to light. So I
28 would ask you again to consider putting a moratorium
29 on destruction of county documents until all this
30 business is dealt with. It's not something that needs
31 to be done today. I mean, it could be done next week
32 or next month and it wouldn't change anything.

33 Expecting this to happen, I today filed a
34 FOIA request asking the county to provide me a copy of
35 everything they plan to destroy. I feel like that
36 will serve two purposes. One, it will save them
37 seventy-five hundred dollars from having to destroy
38 it. Second, they won't have to make copies of it;
39 they can just give me the originals. Sounds like a
40 win-win situation to me. I'll pull a truck up and
41 haul it off for them and that will satisfy my FOIA
42 request. So, Mr. Burns will probably see this on his
43 desk tomorrow. This destruction of documents is a
44 serious issue and it permanently -- just like the
45 agenda has the main points and then it has the backup
46 documents. Well, these documents are the backup for
47 the financial doings of this county. And once they're
48 destroyed all the general ledger and account numbers
49 that are meaningless. We need the back story and
50 that's what these documents are and they should not be

1 destroyed. They should be protected. Thank you.

2 LEON HARMON: Charles Crowe.

3 CHARLES CROWE: The reason I was ready, I
4 signed up and I knew that I was next. But anyway,
5 thanks a lot, Mr. Chairman. Charles Crowe from Five
6 Forks. I'm going -- I started out changing tonight
7 what I was planning on saying, so I'm going to change
8 my whole approach to the Council this three minutes.
9 And first of all, I'd like to thank my Councilman for
10 clearly stating his point, because I'm going to be
11 honest with you, I worried about him tonight and I'm
12 so proud. If you would have let me I would have
13 applauded for him. But you held that down. I thank
14 Ms. Wilson for bringing up the history of how we got
15 here. You know, a lot of people don't know that. A
16 lot of people in this room tonight apparently don't
17 know it. Don't know the things that this county went
18 through. And we still will always pay for it. And
19 I'm sure that Mr. Cole, there, he pointed out some
20 important things. I appreciate him coming out and
21 saying how he felt that maybe we should at least
22 negotiate this thing; don't just roll over and play
23 dead. I mean at least get something out of it for the
24 county. Always remember that's what y'all -- I'm not
25 trying to tell you what to do, but I'm telling you,
26 you know, you were elected to represent the county.
27 Not individuals. Not me. Not Joey Preston. Not
28 anybody else. You're elected to represent the county.
29 And so, please keep that in mind.

30 But again, thanks everyone of you for -- I'm
31 sure that all of you voted your own convictions. I
32 know it was a hard vote. Remember years ago, when
33 some of y'all were still in school, I served on the
34 city council and I used to catch the same flack and
35 the same hell and everything else y'all catch. And it
36 seemed like that time ours was worse. We didn't have
37 chairmen who said you can't name names and you can't
38 -- you got three minutes. You had as much time as you
39 wanted to run.

40 But anyway, thanks a lot again. I'm proud of
41 the way it turned out and I think it turned out for
42 the best for everybody.

43 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

44 LEON HARMON: Mark Powell.

45 MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, District 7.

46 Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you.
47 An extra thirty thousand dollars -- realistic seven
48 hundred something thousand. The question that I had
49 and I've asked it many a times. You got to wonder
50 just how much money the whale of a lawyer got paid to

1 write the resolution tonight. You got to wonder how
2 much money that lawyer is owed for serving frivolous
3 lawsuits. How much money that lawyer was charging
4 potentially for the Monteparas; disappearing people.
5 You got to wonder how much money that lawyer got to
6 bill for anything that certain Council members asked.
7 Certain Council members request. You got to wonder if
8 that has been added into the seven hundred and some
9 thousand dollars. Because you got to know that
10 retired school teachers don't have a lot of money to
11 pay lawyers. They must work for somebody and they
12 must be getting paid from somebody. I know there's no
13 legal requirement for you guys to ever tell us how
14 much you have to pay your lawyers. I know Cindy's was
15 substantial. To fight the person that did to us what
16 only one member sitting on that council tonight agreed
17 to, which was more money than he deserved by our
18 contract. So Mr. Cole, I appreciate your fact that
19 you want to negotiate, but they gave more money, by
20 far -- the South Carolina retirement was not even in
21 his contract. He's getting eight thousand dollars a
22 month. And all one can say is, oh, please, God, let
23 him have to go to jail and I hope they quit giving him
24 money out of my tax dollars on his retirement. I
25 really don't know what happens to people who receive a
26 state pension if they end up going to jail. I know
27 that's the ponzi scheme thing that I'm talking about.
28 But you know, we can all pray. That would be a good
29 thing. At least our tax dollars would quit going
30 there.

31 Again, thank you all for voting. I
32 understand each one of you -- thank you, Mr. Waters.
33 Tom, Tommy, Francis, Cindy, especially. We are more
34 sick of this as a people who have been involved in
35 this county from the beginning than the person who
36 shows up tonight and claims they talked to thirty
37 people who are against it. We've been involved day to
38 day. We could tell you word for word exactly what
39 Cindy told you. Why? We've lived it, we know it, we
40 understand it. People who sit back and listen to what
41 the Independent News has to say and they go, oh my
42 god, I am so sick of spending money. They ought to
43 stand in our shoes. If they're sick a little, we're
44 sick millions of times more than they are.

45 Thank you for your vote.

46 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

47 LEON HARMON: Dan Harvell.

48 DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, members of
49 Council, Dan Harvell, Council District 3. This is all
50 about history tonight. Going back to that November

1 18th meeting back years ago when all this debacle took
2 place, why in the world would we ever give a man
3 severance when he quit. How many of us have ever quit
4 a job voluntarily and then got paid off for quitting.
5 I mean the whole thing is absolutely preposterous from
6 the beginning. Anyone that studied the tape or the
7 DVD of that meeting, and I've seen it time after time
8 after time, has to question the complicity, the
9 conspiracy, the preplanned debacle that happened that
10 night, that was not very well played out, it kind of
11 looked like a circus, but it happened. I don't
12 understand how people can accept that.

13 If we're so upset about legal fees in this
14 county, okay, we're up to three million. Ms. Wilson
15 sat there for years, questioning why this
16 administrator found a way to involve this county in
17 about a million dollars of legal fees per year that
18 she couldn't get accounting for. That there was no
19 reasonable explanation for. Where was everybody then,
20 when the millions was being spent on those legal fees?
21 I guarantee you it totaled a whole lot more than three
22 million dollars.

23 So we have to think about the fact what we
24 would have been spending, actually had the man still
25 been here. But we elected a council that was willing
26 to take the bull by the horns and deal with some of
27 the things the Daniel report showed us and revealed to
28 us; and it was a good thing. It was something that
29 had to be done. Who was complaining about the roads
30 not being fixed, not being built, the bridges not
31 being repaired during that period of time when Ms.
32 Wilson was hawking as loud as she could to say we're
33 not spending money on roads, we're not maintaining our
34 infrastructure that is our base obligation, other than
35 law enforcement, for our county citizens. Where were
36 these people then?

37 What is the price of justice? If we're
38 willing to suspend this justice then why don't we just
39 save the county a lot of money, suspend the justice
40 system in the county and spend all that on roads for
41 about a year. That would fix everything, wouldn't it?
42 But no, we're not going to do that because justice is
43 worth everything that's been spent on it. We're a
44 nation of laws. We need to abide by those laws. And
45 Anderson County is no exception. Due process needs to
46 be played out. And the right thing was done tonight.
47 And as Republican Chairman, I am proud of our
48 Republicans tonight. Thank you very much.

49 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon, next.

50 LEON HARMON: Denny Floyd.

1 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Floyd's left. I think
2 Mr. Floyd's left the building.

3 LEON HARMON: Elizabeth Fant.

4 ELIZABETH FANT: Sometimes I come off pretty
5 strong. That's my nature to stand up for the things
6 that I believe in. Today is March the 17th.
7 Everybody thinks they know the day, today is Saint
8 Patrick's Day. But today is also another anniversary,
9 it's an anniversary of my mother's death. Mr. Waters,
10 I used to work in your district as a teacher. Back
11 many years ago when my mother died, she died on March
12 the 17th, and at the end of the year when school was
13 out, I went up to help my Dad help deal with the
14 situation and get him established. I was a media
15 specialist. And so I had to work two weeks before and
16 two weeks after. So for that three months, all the
17 stuff that happened and even into September, I just
18 put in a big brown envelope and kept it. When school
19 got started back, I started going through to do my
20 usual filing and so forth, and I looked at my receipts
21 and I said, I think I've gotten an extra check from
22 the school district.

23 Mr. Cole, I mentioned to you and the whole
24 council about character, conviction and courage. I
25 live by those three things. Most of you out here,
26 they don't really know me. You just think you do.
27 But I believe in doing the right thing. I took those
28 records to my principal and I said, I think I've been
29 overpaid a month. He said, no, you haven't. And he
30 looked at me like he thought I was nuts. And I said,
31 yes, I think I have. I took it to the school
32 superintendent. And indeed, I had been paid,
33 overpaid. I didn't have to do that. I could have
34 been dishonest; I could have kept that money. I could
35 have never said a word. Who would have known? I
36 would have known and He would have known.

37 And that's another reason why this case is so
38 important to Anderson County, because there has been
39 so much stolen from Anderson County. Not only
40 physical funds, but also our hearts and what we
41 propose and what we hope to be as a just, good
42 government and a county that we can be proud of.

43 I'm proud of you all tonight. I'm proud of
44 you, Mr. Cole, for speaking up and telling, you know,
45 what your viewpoint is. You're new on the -- new kid
46 on the block and nobody knows anything much about you
47 except for, you know, what you proposed in the
48 Republican meetings, and of course, you got jumped
49 down your throat right then. So we need to hear from
50 you and we need to know what your philosophy is. But

1 rewarding injustice and rewarding crookedness is never
2 a good thing. And I believe in my heart that people
3 need to be honest. And if we're really honest about
4 Anderson County, we know that there's been a lot that
5 has happened here that should not have happened. And
6 I appreciate it.

7 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.
8 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.
9 LEON HARMON: That's all the folks signed
10 up.

11 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.
12 Be moving on to remarks from Council members.
13 Ms. Wilson.

14 CINDY WILSON: ... to thank you and also
15 to remind everyone that we have our Planning and
16 Public Works Committee meeting Thursday and we'll
17 take on some more of the Comprehensive Plan and the
18 road reclassification and some of the other issues.
19 And everyone's welcomed to come. Thank you.

20 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson. Mr.
21 Crowder?

22 FRANCIS CROWDER: I have none, Chairman.
23 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Cole?
24 MITCHELL COLE: Just a quick comment. Had
25 a good meeting with the solid waste people today and
26 we're planning on a solid waste -- a litter conference
27 coming up real soon. We'll get a lot more information
28 out about that. But anybody you talk to, you talk to
29 them to about let's clean up our county and keep it
30 clean. If you see somebody throwing trash out, get
31 word to the solid waste department. They'll handle
32 it. Thank you.

33 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Cole. Ms.
34 Floyd?

35 GRACIE FLOYD: If you really want to know
36 what happened way back then, look it up for
37 yourselves. Find out for yourself. Don't believe
38 everything somebody tells you. Okay. Look it up for
39 yourself. A lot of half truths and untruths were said
40 here tonight. So look it up for yourself.

41 Thank you to the man who said that a lawyer
42 -- he wondered how much a lawyer charged to do that
43 resolution for me. I did it myself. I thank you for
44 that, for thinking it was a lawyer doing it. But I
45 have the education to do that myself. I don't have to
46 pay anybody to do things for me. But I sure do
47 appreciate the compliment. I did it myself and it can
48 be proven that I did it myself.

49 Mr. Cole, you said that we should look at
50 negotiating. All right. That sounds like a good

1 idea. When you first came on, you were talking about
2 that. Of course, I got sidetracked with your quote in
3 the newspaper, but I'm looking for you in the next
4 couple of weeks to propose something where we can
5 negotiate to stop this madness. If you think
6 negotiating was going to do it, then I'm looking for
7 the leadership to come from you. Not six months from
8 now, but as you promised in your campaign, soon; okay?

9 The -- everything that I have done from June
10 -- from November the 8th until this day -- no, no, no,
11 no, let's go back further. Everything that I have
12 done on Council from the time that I have been
13 elected, I stand by. I have made mistakes. And I
14 have owned up to my mistakes. I would not do anything
15 differently tonight or November the 8th or from the
16 time that I got here. I don't -- I am not one who
17 will go along with people just to get along with them.
18 I wasn't elected to get along. I was elected to make
19 a difference and I believe I have done that. To my
20 detractors, you can do better. You can do better.

21 As far as my praying that -- I think the lady
22 said I don't close my eyes when I pray, I'm looking
23 all around the audience. How does she know that, if
24 her eyes aren't closed either? So I guess we're just
25 looking around the audience together. But you know,
26 those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw rocks.
27 I know my God and he knows me.

28 And there's some things that are happening on
29 Council that I'm not pleased with. Several times I
30 have had the floor snatched away from me when I have
31 gotten it according to Robert's Rules, but we're
32 working on that. I will be working on that one.

33 And about the vote tonight, I'm not
34 disappointed. I'm not disappointed. I just want you
35 to know I am not disappointed at all.

36 I thank you, Mr. Chair.

37 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Allen?

38 TOM ALLEN: Nothing at this time.

39 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Waters?

40 KEN WATERS: Yeah. Just a couple of
41 things. One of the things I think is very important
42 that we need to mention tonight that we don't miss
43 what we come here for. This Council has worked
44 together with the staff and the employees of Anderson
45 County to do a very good job in a lot of things. You
46 saw where we used the Civic Center for the ROTC.
47 Looking forward to the school using that a lot more.
48 That's a very good thing. I like seeing those kids do
49 that. And some of us have the same waist size and
50 anyway they do a good job with that. Looking forward

1 to that.

2 The next thing; the jobs. I notice we did
3 pass that paper back, and I believe that you'll find
4 that that's good information that you did see there.
5 And we're looking at right around two hundred jobs.
6 These are good paying jobs that have health benefits.
7 That's exactly what we need and this Council's done a
8 very good job working with our Economic Development.
9 Our Economic Development has received an award for
10 doing that. And so, that's one of the main things
11 that I really want people to not miss, is the good
12 stuff that's been done here and especially tonight
13 with these jobs.

14 Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that and that's
15 all I have.

16 TOMMY DUNN: Appreciate it, Mr. Waters.
17 Just want to say a few quick words. I want
18 to start off with I want to say appreciate each and
19 everyone of the Council members, and I wish everybody
20 would think before they speak because there have been
21 a lot of mis-truths said here tonight. Or, just when
22 I say mis-truths I mean it's not exactly factual. You
23 know, they say just enough the facts but not in detail
24 or what not to get it down. And you need to look at
25 it and know the facts and ask somebody to do a little
26 research, got some questions.

27 One thing for sure I do know, to make
28 innuendos because a picture was taken of somebody is
29 just wrong. I've known Mr. Cole now just for a very
30 short time, but I've found him to be nothing but very
31 ethical, and I look forward to working with Mr. Cole.
32 It's been nothing but -- we're not going to always --
33 I tell everybody this, we're not going to always
34 agree. And I don't take it personally and get mad and
35 we don't. Everybody's got a right -- they got their
36 conviction what they got to do what they think is
37 right. And I've found Mr. Cole to be very honest
38 since I've met him and look forward to working with
39 him. Got great ideas; just like this clean up thing.
40 Looking forward to it. Know that.

41 I want to just say, got the lady from Chamber
42 of Commerce here. Stand up and take a bow. We
43 appreciate what all Chamber of Commerce is doing.
44 What you've done for us. Look forward to working with
45 you. Any way we can help you, let us know. And all
46 our thanks. Thank you very much for being here.

47 Want to thank the Administrator and his
48 staff, and the whole Anderson County staff, for what
49 all they're doing for economic development because
50 that's what we got to do. We've got to grow ourselves

1 out of this thing we in. We got a good start of that.
2 Want to hope into it. And if people's got questions,
3 now you can sit here and make all the snide comments
4 about this and that and I know you think some of us
5 just up here thumps on a log, stupid, but if you got a
6 question you really want to know the answer to it, ask
7 a Council person before the meeting, we can answer it.
8 We've got a set of rules and guidelines we have to go
9 by; ordinances in this book. It's not a question and
10 answer period to come here. Be glad to answer any
11 question I can for anybody or try to -- not the
12 smartest person, but I try to get them the answers.
13 Gentleman here tonight about the airport thing. This
14 thing's been going on -- this Council voted to condemn
15 some properties about six months ago or better. I was
16 one of the council members that voted against that,
17 for certain reasons. Gentleman hasn't contacted me.
18 I'd love to sit down and talk to him and find out what
19 his thing about -- always said you can't fix a problem
20 if you don't know there is one. I'd love -- be
21 reasonable though, about it. But as far as wanting to
22 shut down the airport, y'all think you want to shut
23 down the airport for Anderson County. What would that
24 be like? I do want to address one thing, because it's
25 just a little ???, made the statement, you know, we
26 wouldn't change -- I wouldn't swap my house for his.
27 No, I wouldn't. I chose to build my house where I
28 wanted to build it. I could have built it just about
29 anywhere I wanted to, but I chose to live where I
30 wanted to live and I'm very happy to be there -- very
31 happy there. Very happy in the community I'm in. Was
32 born and raised there and good Lord's willing, that's
33 where I'll die. So that's the reason I didn't --
34 wouldn't choose to swap with him. But the airport's
35 been out there for many, many years and it's going --
36 as Mr. Allen said early in his statement, I hope it
37 grows. We need to have a viable airport. To have a
38 viable community we've got to.

39 Thank y'all very much. God bless y'all. And
40 this meeting will be dismissed.

41
42

(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:25 P.M.)